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CAPUTO ON BEAGLE, POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SHULTZ

PY211613 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1400 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (DYN) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today reported that the Vatican has submitted a new proposal to Argentina and Chile to overcome the southern border conflict. However, he noted that he does not yet know the content of the proposal. He denied that he is scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during his forthcoming trip to the United States in April.

Caputo also rejected recent criticism of the Argentine Foreign Ministry's political guidelines, and he noted that Argentina's "main political partners" are in the West and that "we shall continue to follow the same guidelines." The foreign minister made this statement during the program "Magdalena and the News," which is broadcast by Radio Continental. He also confirmed that this week the Foreign Ministry will receive an answer from London to the proposal that Argentina submitted in February on the resumption of negotiations over the sovereignty of the Malvinas. This answer will be received through the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires, which represents British interests in Argentina.

Regarding the Beagle issue, Caputo said that Marcelo Delpech, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for border affairs, who is presently heading the Argentine delegation to the papal mediation, informed him last night of the new Vatican proposal. Caputo noted that Delpech will arrive in Buenos Aires next weekend "to discuss the proposal," adding that "he categorically informed me that this was the latest development" in the negotiations over the Beagle issue. He said: "Therefore, Delpech was denying recent reports in this regard that have been issued by the mass media." Caputo said that the "reliable sources" quoted by some members of the mass media are "unreliable." Regarding some recent rumors, Caputo said: "None of them are correct. They include a melange of old and new aspects of the negotiations and they make them appear as new." He noted that "the only news is the new proposal submitted by the mediation office, whose content I still do not know and about which I am going to be personally informed."

Regarding rumors that during his next trip to the United States he will meet with Perez de Cuellar, Caputo was very ironic in noting: "I am pleased to learn through the newspapers what will happen to me." He added that "we have not taken any formal steps to meet with the UN secretary general," noting that "it would be a pleasure to meet him and that it would be very convenient to do so in view of the many negotiations underway, particularly those involving the Malvinas issue." But he insisted that "no formal request has been submitted, and no meeting has been scheduled."

He confirmed there is a possibility that during his trip to the United States he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He added that although he has been informed that Shultz is interested in meeting him, "I do not know" when this meeting will take place. Caputo said that among the subjects "we are interested" in discussing in case of an eventual meeting with Shultz would be: 1) "the present state of negotiations being carried out in the country" with the United States, on which he did not elaborate; and 2) "the situation of the renegotiation of the foreign debt, which is the basis of all negotiations pertaining to both economic and Foreign Ministry issues."

OFFICIAL DENIES BUDGET CUT FOR ARMED FORCES

PY211406 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Interview with Finance Secretary Humberto Bertaina at Government House after a cabinet meeting on 20 March -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Secretary, the budget was studied today and we would like to hear something about what has been approved or, at least, approved in principle.

[Bertaina] Yes, we did analyze the amounts of expenditures and investments in various areas. We reached a final agreement which will serve as the basis for continuing work to establish the exact figures and finish the budget by the end of this month.

[Reporter] Mr Secretary, what can be done about the decline in the deficit? Its amount has been estimated at 4 percent of the GNP, but I have the impression that this figure is not correct.

[Bertaina] Well, perhaps there is a misunderstanding regarding this figure. The deficit of 4 percent of the GNP refers to December 1984. The average deficit of the year, based on the high deficit figure we inherited, will be 8 percent.

[Reporter] Mr Finance Secretary, could you tell us about the funds earmarked for the Armed Forces which will now be transferred to other areas? What are those areas and are the funds large?

[Bertaina] The funds earmarked for the Armed Forces will not be transferred to other areas. There is, rather, a redistribution of funds in an attempt to make the budget and its execution an instrument for economic reactivation. We have found that the housing program is one of the economic reactivation instruments, and not only for economic reactivation but also an instrument with a strong social impact. Priority is also given to education and health.

10 JUNE DECREED FALKLANDS SOVEREIGNTY DAY

PY220205 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2055 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (DYN) -- Today Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli disclosed that the national government will decree 10 June as the Day of Reassertion of Argentine Sovereignty Over the Malvinas Islands, a national holiday and the only day to commemorate the actions seeking to recover those rights.

Minister Troccoli stated that, as a consequence, the decision taken by the last military regime to declare 2 April a holiday will be voided. However, he noted that on that day President Raul Alfonsin will preside over a ceremony to pay homage to those who died during the war that was waged on the archipelago during President Leopoldo Galtieri's administration.

Troccoli said that the decree establishing the national holiday has already been signed by the chief of state.

ADM CARVAJAL DENIES RESIGNATION, DISAGREEMENTS

PY211537 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal today dismissed reports that he would resign. The denial came in a meeting at La Moneda Palace where, shortly afterward, along with Admiral Jose Toribio Emdina, Vice Adm Carvajal dismissed as hearsay certain disagreements with Admiral Medina.

ARMY HIGH COMMAND, UNIT COMMANDERS TO MEET

PY211509 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Army high command will hold meetings with the Army unit commanders. These meetings will start today and end 23 March. They were ordered by the president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, General Augusto Pinochet. These meetings will be strictly of a military nature and will be held at the War College. They are part of scheduled annual activities and seek to coordinate the development of academic courses and indoctrination leading to the achievement of perfection by all Army staff. These meetings will be presided over by the deputy commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Julio Canessa, and the chief of state will attend the closing ceremony.

PRODEN LEADER ATTACKED, IN SERIOUS CONDITION

PY211209 Paris AFP in Spanish 0325 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Medical sources have reported that Jorge Lavanderos, a member of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has been hospitalized in serious condition in the Neurosurgery Hospital after being attacked by a dozen unidentified individuals who jumped out of three vehicles. Radio Cooperativa, which is linked to the PDC, indicated that Lavanderos, a former congressman and president of the National Development Project (PRODEN), was struck with sharp objects -- fracturing his skull -- when he was returning home alone. Lavanderos, 43 years old, a former senator, has for the last 10 years been politically active against the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet and has tried to unite the opposition political parties and movements. Several politicians, diplomats, and relatives of the former senator visited him in the hospital late last night.

Lavanderos' Condition Worsens

PY212005 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The condition of former Senator Jorge Lavanderos, who was the target of a criminal attack yesterday, seriously worsened after midday today. According to his relatives, who are with him at the (Indisa) Hospital, Lavanderos unexpectedly suffered brain edema. In addition, the internal wound in his left ear has caused a dangerous infection and he also has several broken ribs. Lavanderos has been taken to the hospital's intensive care unit, where not even his relatives are allowed to see him.

Attack Condemned, Compared

PY212300 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Engelberto Frias, leader of the National Development Project [PRODEN], today stated that it is quite clear who is to blame for the attack on Jorge Lavanderos. Frias also voiced the indignation of various political parties over the cowardly attack. At a press conference attended by many journalists, Frias said that the attack was aimed at silencing Lavanderos.

[Begin Frias recording] This sort of action does not even cause any surprise any more. However, we can hardly silence our outrage at the cowardly, treacherous, and crude manner in which this attack was perpetrated. [end recording]

Frias then went on to discuss the two attacks that made the news last night: the one on the former Christian Democratic lawmaker and the other on the former head of DINA [National Intelligence Department], who was not harmed.

[Begin Frias recording] There are certain coincidences which make us wonder about the attackers and who they are. It is quite indicative that almost at the very instant Jorge Lavanderos was being attacked, another well-known individual, wanted by the United States, was also the victim of an attack, which could only be seen in detective films or James Bond movies. [end recording]

Engelberto Frias said that the former head of the DINA is continuously surrounded by bodyguards.

[Begin Frias recording] He is continuously surrounded by many bodyguards. However, two young kids on a motorcycle managed to get to his car, put a bomb on the roof, and allow him time to walk half a block away, or something like that. Instead of going into a panic, as any person who finds a bomb in his car would, he had the time to get out of his car, pull the bomb off the roof, and give it to one of his bodyguards to defuse it [end recording]

Frias went on to say that the criminal attack on Lavanderos will only encourage the Chilean people to protest, the only weapon against the wave of terrorism whose objectives are perfectly clear. In conclusion, he stated that those who engage in these criminal actions are never arrested or even found, just as those who damage churches, attack priests, or sow terror in neighborhoods are never identified.

JARPA DISCUSSES LAVANDEROS ATTACK, RALLY PLANS

PY212055 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] Talking with the press at the Diego Portales Building, Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has stated that what has happened to former Senator Jorge Lavanderos could have been an incident in which he participated or an incident prepared by persons interested in creating problems. He added that such a thing would not be of any benefit to the government, of absolutely no benefit. He confirmed that the government has requested the visit of a minister to explain these events.

The interior minister also commented on the transporters' problems. He said their problems are being solved and added that approximately 10,000 of them must renegotiate their debts with the court. They have to see how to solve the payment problems, including the lawyers' fees, because these debts will have to be paid now through the courts, he said.

Asked about the 23 March demonstration called for by the Chilean Communist Party, the interior minister stated: The government has always been prepared. There are no specific measures to be adopted. Whenever a threat to disrupt public order occurs, there are measures that are automatically adopted. This time there will be no contingent deployed on the streets, the minister stated in answer to another question by reporters.

The interior minister then revealed that a number of projects are under preparation and that President Pinochet will sign them on Friday, 23 March, at the Diego Portales Building.

FOREIGN MINISTER REFUTES HONDURAN CLAIM TO CAYS

PA210300 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has said that Colombia will uphold through dialogue its sovereignty over the Serranilla and Bajo Nueva Cays, which have recently been claimed by Honduras. Regarding the Honduran claim over these cays, the foreign minister said that he has not received any official information to this effect and therefore could not make an official statement. Lloreda Caicedo added that the Honduran ambassador has requested a meeting for this week, probably to present his government's official message, which has already been published in the newspapers.

[Begin recording] [Lloreda Caicedo] I have read the newspapers, but the message has not reached my office. I believe that the meeting the Honduran ambassador has requested for this week will be to present the message. I would prefer to see the message before making any comments, since I have received nothing officially. I have heard a statement and read the newspapers, but that is all I know.

[Question indistinct]

[Lloreda Caicedo] Let's wait until I receive the message. After I do, I will be more than happy to tell you about the Colombian Government's reply.

[Unidentified reporter] When will talks with Honduras begin to define the maritime areas?

[Lloreda Caicedo] The talks began in October. The first meeting was a cordial one. We will look for the right time to hold a new meeting. There is really no pre-established program, but the meetings will be sought as needed.

[Reporter] At the time of the first meeting, had Honduras already stated its intention to claim the cays?

[Lloreda Caicedo] Honduras has held this position for several years. In a communique I released following the statement made by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, I said that Honduras had incorporated its alleged sovereignty over the Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo Cays into its Constitution.

The Colombian position will be based on the geographic and historical fact that the cays are near and are part of the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago, and on the fact that for years Colombia has kept the peace in those cays.

Now we have the Honduran claim. Since there is no treaty between the two countries that defines this situation, we can present no demands from the diplomatic viewpoint. We cannot ask Honduras to stop making statements. This situation is quite different from the other cays in the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago, for which there are treaties with Nicaragua, the United States, and other countries. We will hold talks, and we are sure that our claims are stronger and more logical. During the meetings in which we will discuss marine and submarine areas with Honduras, we will present these rights so that Honduras will recognize our sovereignty.

Other countries have already recognized our jurisdiction over these areas. Jamaica signed a fishing agreement with Colombia in which it recognized our jurisdiction over these cays. Such agreements have a clause stating that permission has to be requested and requirements met before fishing is allowed in Colombian waters.

The process is underway, and we will continue working to clearly establish what is already a fact: our presence in and sovereignty over those cays.

[Reporter] Is Colombia's position regarding the Cayman Islands based on the same principles as those concerning Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo?

[Lloreda Caicedo] It is not only the cays, but the island of Providencia as well, because it has been established that the island of Providencia has the exclusive right over its 200 miles, and this conflicts with the Cayman Island's 200 miles of territorial waters. The cays could be the subject of negotiations to establish demarcations between cays, but these negotiations could also concern demarcations between islands.

[Reporter] What does the United Kingdom say about abandoning those islands and about negotiating?

[Lloreda Caicedo] There has been no problem with the United Kingdom. There is an understanding that at some time we will have to negotiate, but officially no negotiations have begun. As I said before, we are working slowly. It is a process that demands negotiations for demarcation in the Caribbean and Pacific areas. Negotiations for demarcations must be carried out with Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Honduras, since these countries form the northern border of the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW TAX RETURN CERTIFICATE -- Economic Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal has announced that the government will enact two decrees that will create the Tax Return Certificate, CERT, which will replace the Tax Allowance Certificate, CAT. The new tax return certificate will provide different return percentages based on the export product. The CERT is intended to generate jobs and to stimulate exports. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 84 PA]

TRADE MEETING WITH NORWAY -- Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Elvin Berg is heading a commercial delegation visiting Colombia which met today with INCOMEX [Colombian Foreign Trade Institute] Director Gustavo Tobon Londono, who revealed the Colombian Government's intention to target its exports toward countries that state their willingness to purchase our national products without demanding reciprocity or compensation. The Norwegian delegation expressed its government's interest in participating, via its technology, in priority sectors of our country's development plans: generation and transmission of energy, communications, transportation, fisheries, exploitation of gas and oil deposits, mining, and metalworks. The two representatives expressed their government's interest in strengthening trade, economic, and cooperation relations. Berg also met with Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal, Public Works Minister Hernan Beltz Peralta, and other government and private sector representatives. [Excerpts] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 84 p 13 PA]

NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES RELATIONS, U.S.

PA211720 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Zamora Rodriguez, the new Cuban extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Ecuador, has said that the normalization of diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Cuba serves the mutual interests of the Latin American countries. Zamora presented his credentials to the Ecuadoran president at the National Palace upon the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Begin Zamora recording] First, I think that, traditionally and historically, our two countries have maintained very good relations and that historical ties make them brothers. I think that this normalization of relations serves the mutual interests of both countries and, given the current situation in Latin America, Latin America's search for an independent position and solutions to the economic problems and the underdevelopment plaguing all of our countries. [end recording]

The ambassador then spoke about the North American President's recent remarks in regard to statements made by the Cuban president.

[Begin Zamora recording] [Word indistinct] (?President Reagan has gotten us) accustomed to these things. Rather than developing a serious policy and seeking solutions to problems, he is trying to impose a policy of force on Central America and is advocating solutions in which the United States is interested, but which do not benefit our countries. [end recording]

The ambassador also extended a formal invitation from Cuban President Fidel Castro to Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea to visit Cuba.

LABOR LEADERS ANNOUNCE STRIKE TO PROTEST DECREE

PA201641 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Mar 84

[By Raul Rodriguez]

[Text] Guayaquil -- A general strike involving labor unions and workers' committees from various private companies in Guayaquil and throughout the country is slated for the next few days to protest Executive Decree No 1384 on the revaluation of fixed assets. The decree has effectively decreased the workers' income to a minimal level.

The planned strike was announced by labor leaders, who are afraid of this decree, which harms those who work in banks, breweries, glue factories, and electric appliance companies, among others.

The initial strike is intended to warn the president to reconsider the decree; otherwise, the strike will be prolonged indefinitely.

In any case, the strikers said that they are appealing to the president's social consciousness to convince him to repeal Executive Decree No 1384.

MOPOCO ASKS U.S. EMBASSY TO EXPLAIN REPORT

PY220155 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 12

[Text] The Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] yesterday asked the U.S. Embassy to explain why an office of the U.S. State Department has included it among international terrorist organizations. In a note addressed to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, MOPOCO states that the one who is responsible for that report must explain the reasons which led him to include it among terrorist organizations. MOPOCO's note refers to the document released yesterday by the U.S. Embassy that was previously mentioned by Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro in a political meeting. It concerns the report released by the Office for Combatting Terrorism, a U.S. State Department organization, entitled: "International Terrorism, Hostage Seizures."

Yesterday's MOPOCO note to Ambassador Davis states that the Paraguayan Government, through its interior minister, has used that document to accuse it of being a "terrorist organization charged with committing the crimes of kidnapping and hostage seizures." The note explains that Montanaro's accusations are based exclusively on that report, and adds that no event of this or a similar nature has been mentioned that could be attributed to our movement in support of the accusation.

After considering a statement made by a spokesman of the U.S. Embassy that this diplomatic mission "has no reason to consider MOPOCO a terrorist organization," MOPOCO expressed surprise over its inclusion in that report. The note adds that although the report explains in its introduction that the list of organizations included in the report lacks all credibility because of the different theories or incorrect or invalid data used in preparing it, "the official organization in charge of preparing the document cannot elude the obligation of telling exactly what have been the elements of judgment that led to the inclusion of MOPOCO among the organizations suspected of committing such crimes."

After rejecting the presumption that MOPOCO could be involved in the criminal events mentioned in the U.S. State Department report, given the widespread publicity achieved and given the "merit of our legitimate interest in defending the prestige and the moral authority of MOPOCO, earned after more than a quarter of a century of tremendous struggle for the implementation of democratic ideas," the movement asked Ambassador Davis to decide on the procedure to be adopted to find the appropriate explanation to this situation.

The note is signed by Dr Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, president of MOPOCO, who said that the letter was received by John Leonard, the embassy political officer.

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT WARNING

PY211755 [Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 21 March publishes on page 9 reactions by several political parties to the press communique released by the Interior Ministry on 20 March 1984.

Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, president of the Colorado Popular Movement, MOPOCO, is quoted as saying that "it is a mere press communique without legal value, whose substance is chiefly made up of conundrums and concepts which challenge the political situation in the country, and I personally understand that its text is meant to set up barriers and, ultimately, to ban the meeting" [of Southern Cone parties].

Dr Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, commenting on the communique, has said that "this is a mockery for all Paraguayans since the government has violated the principle of the democratic and republican system, because it is an autocratic regime which consistently violates the people's rights and establishes political, social, economic, and cultural inequality and unprecedented discrimination in our country."

The president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, Dr Euclides Acevedo, said that "Once again the law is being resorted to as a means of intimidation, by which the regime not only indulges in distorting legal intention but also shows complete totalitarian cynicism." He added: "Let us fact it, this report is directly aimed at preventing the meeting of political parties which we seek to hold in Asuncion in April."

Dr Enzo Doldan, president of the Liberal Radical Party (PLR) Executive Broad, said that "any obstacle raised to restrict the right to assemble to which the citizens are entitled or which seeks to hinder the attendance of persons at this sort of meeting constitutes an attack on the right to assemble, which is provided for by the Constitution." He added that "this violation of the Constitution, coupled with the persecution that the opposition political parties are enduring concerning their right to assemble and the attacks on press freedom, from the democratic standpoint, results in an unfortunate picture."

POLICE FAIL TO BRING ZUCCOLILLO TO COURT

PY202305 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 8

[Excerpts] Despite the order issued by the Supreme Court of Justice for the police headquarters authorities to bring ABC COLOR director Aldo Zuccolillo, who is under arrest, before the court this morning the well-known media authority did not appear. In view of this, ABC COLOR lawyer Geronimo Angulo Gaston filed a new request with the Supreme Court requesting that it reiterate its order to the police authorities so that the corresponding steps may be taken and the arrested director may be allowed to testify before the court.

Zuccolillo is still being held at the police headquarters under a relative incommunicado status since he is allowed to be visited only by his wife and children.

It was learned this morning that the U.S. Embassy political officer, John P. Leonard, has visited the Foreign Ministry, where he voiced his concern over ABC COLOR director Aldo Zuccolillo's arrest. This and other acts stem from Zuccolillo's arrest. These expressions of concern are taking place at the same time as strictly judicial steps are being taken in the case.

BRIEFS

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ENDS MISSION -- Yesterday morning the head of state received at his office Italian Ambassador to Paraguay Enzo Montano, who said farewell to him after concluding his mission in Paraguay. [Excerpt] [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 5 PY]

GENERAL STRIKE PREPARATIONS, REACTIONS

Guarantees Suspended

PY211405 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The government has ordered the suspension of guarantees throughout the entire country on 21, 22, and 23 March in order to provide protection to people and property in case there are attempts to obstruct order. The measure is aimed at guaranteeing the right to work.

This announcement was made by Miguel Angel Alva Orlandini, head of the National Social Communications System. He also said that the government, aware of the difficulties which might occur, has ordered a special transport compensation of (?2,500) soles for every worker going to work.

Public Transport Protected

PY211516 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Ministry of Transportation and Communications hereby informs the public of the following:

The Labor Ministry has declared the strike called by some union organizations for 22 March illegal because the workers' demands contain requests that fall outside the ministry's jurisdiction and because the content of the requests obviously have political connotations that exceed the framework of union matters. [passage indistinct]

Because of the (?unfounded) requests made by the transportation union organizations, the ministry informs the public of the following:

1. The government has adopted measures which will guarantee that workers will be able to get to work and which will permit tardiness.
2. Because of this emergency situation, unauthorized transporters or private contractors, etc will also be authorized to provide local service and international transportation.
3. The police forces will provide police protection and the necessary guarantees to transporters providing service.

The government again calls on transporters to reconsider their action, to suspend the strike, and to show their patriotic spirit because of the serious crisis which is affecting the country.

Curfew Triggers Violence

PY211941 Paris AFP in Spanish 1542 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Police sources reported here today that acts of violence began within 24 hours after the suspension of the curfew in Ayacucho. So far one police station has been attacked, two schools dynamited, a peasant murdered, and three persons kidnapped by hooded individuals.

Terrorist Attacks Begin

PY220240 Paris AFP in Spanish 0217 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Approximately half a dozen terrorist attacks have taken place throughout this capital tonight, a few hours before the beginning of the general 24-hour strike the unions have called.

Explosions apparently caused by dynamite have damaged buildings, banks, and stores in downtown Lima, and the Pueblo Libre and Miraflores Districts but no casualties have yet been reported.

This morning students blocked the avenues near San Marcos University and clashed with police. According to their leaders, the idea was to elicit support for the strike which will begin tomorrow and whose list of demands include those of the students.

Bomb Blasts Near U.S. Embassy

PA220333 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0316 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (EFE) -- Several explosions occurred tonight in the Peruvian capital, hours before the beginning of a general strike called for tomorrow, Thursday, by the four labor organizations of the country.

The explosions occurred at 2030 in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy, near a conventions building, in a commercial center of the Pueblo Libre neighborhood, and in Miraflores.

Police sources do not have any information on possible victims or the extent of the damage.

LIMA RADIO ANALYZES UPCOMING STRIKE SITUATION

PY211540 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Through different means, well-known opposition newspapers are supporting the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance]-Communist sponsored strike which is clearly aimed at destabilizing the government.

The issues raised by the leaders of the four unions are not strictly labor issues, but rather political ones. Why is this a political stoppage? Because from the political point of view, the only issue that unites the so-called Single National Struggle Command [Commando Nacional Unitario de Lucha] is the objective of destabilizing the government.

No one can deny that the country is presently experiencing a serious economic crisis. National experts admit this, and some even blame the present constitutional government for it.

However, the solutions that have been proposed ranged from a simplistic point of view of changing cabinet members to the extremist position of suggesting a violent disruption of the democratic system. As in most cases, the solution lies in the middle of these two positions. This solution should be found after a careful analysis of the real causes of this situation.

Within this framework, the holding of a national strike is suicidal. The only conclusion one can arrive at is that the only objective of this strike is to promote unrest, which is particularly important to exploit during a preelection year and at a time when all national political fronts are experiencing internal struggles.

VICE PRESIDENT CALLS STRIKE SEDITIOUS, ILLEGAL

PY222000 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (EFE) -- The Peruvian second vice president today classified as "seditious" the national strike slated for tomorrow. He thus justified the suspension of constitutional guarantees decreed on Tuesday.

Javier Alva Orlandini, who is also secretary general of the official Popular Action party, said that the general strike which has been called by the four labor organizations of the country is "illegal" because "it is aimed at compelling the state to adopt political measures."

The official position, which has been reasserted by various ministers over the past few days, is that the strike pursues political rather than labor purposes. The workers are requesting a change in the economic policy, wage increases in accordance with the inflation rate, and the "moralization" of the public and economic sectors.

The leaders of the four labor organizations today reasserted that the strike will be held in spite of the suspension of guarantees.

The national strike was called a few days ago by the four Peruvian labor organizations, which are the Communist CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers], the Social Democratic CTP [Confederation of Peruvian Workers], the Christian Democratic CNT [National Labor Confederation], and the CTRP [Federation of Workers of the Peruvian Revolution], which was created by the previous military regime.

The Social Democratic APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] and the United Left Marxist coalition, which were the two main forces in the November 1983 municipal elections, have also expressed support for the strike. Agrarian organizations such as the Peasants Confederation of Peru and various unions which represent the transportation sector, the 30,000 stevedores, and the 20,000 bank employees also support the strike.

The strike, which is the fifth one faced by Fernando Belaunde's constitutional government since 1980, will really "test" the government because it has been organized by a large number of sectors. Belaunde's government is spending its last year in power amidst the worst economic and social crisis in Peruvian history.

Political and union leaders consulted by EFE have unanimously stated that the adoption of extreme measures is a way of admitting the cabinet's "weakness" in the face of political and social pressure.

Leftist Senator Enrique Bernales said that the suspension of constitutional guarantees seeks to "scare the people in the wake of the government's inability to stop the strike, which will be total."

APRA Senator and CNT President Julio Cruzado said that "the strike will be held at any cost because it was decided upon by the rank and file."

Violence is a main concern. Although its organizers originally classified it as a "civic" protest, CGTP President Isidoro Gamarra has stated that the strikers would reject "any police provocation."

Since the suspension of guarantees includes the cancellation of the right to hold meeting meetings and rallies, the protest actions organized by the Single National Struggle Command, which was created to coordinate the strike, will be illegal.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich Eoca has announced a police plan which will cover the entire country to guarantee free transit along highways and roads and to prevent disorder. Tuesday police forces were called to their barracks on a state of alert.

Transport Minister Carlos Pestana has announced that military officers protected by Republican Guards will drive the buses of the ENATRU-PERU [National Urban Transportation Enterprise] if its drivers do not report to work.

The rendering of public transportation services will largely determine the strike's failure or success because not all of the small-sized transport enterprises support the coercive measure. However, the setting up of barricades could deter urban drivers while the road blocks announced by agrarian organizations could to a great extent paralyze the interprovincial transportation of cargo and passengers.

SHINING PATH TEMPORARILY BLACKS OUT AYACUCHO

PY160141 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1505 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 15 Mar (EFE) -- A dynamite attack staged by the Peruvian Maoist guerrilla movement known as the "Shining Path" has caused a blackout in the southern city of Ayacucho.

Shining Path members detonated 20 dynamite sticks and caused a 10-minute power outage. The extremists also attacked a restaurant, a market building, and the police hospital.

Bursts of submachine gun fire were heard during the blackout, but neither dead nor wounded have been reported.

When the blackout began, police sent small tanks to the streets while pedestrians rushed to seek shelter.

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES REPORTED -- Lima, 9 Mar (AFP) -- The government National Bureau of Statistics has reported that the unemployment and underemployment rates reached 8.8 and 53.9 percent, respectively, in 1983, in comparison with 7.0 and 49.9 percent, respectively, in 1982. It was also reported that the Peruvian population reached 19,314,000 in 1983. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1923 GMT 9 Mar 84 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES -- PETROPERU, State Petroleum Agency, officials have reported that in 1983 the production of oil in the jungle was 42.5 million barrels, worth \$1,183,000,000. [Summary] [Lima Diplomatic Service in Spanish 0543 GMT 10 Mar 84 PY]

SEREGNI ON DEMOCRATIZATION, TALKS WITH MILITARY

PY212315 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Liber Seregni has just hosted a press conference during which he discussed national, international, and economic issues. Seregni, a presidential candidate in the 1971 elections, said he is willing to hold a dialogue with the representatives of the Armed Forces although, in his opinion, such a dialogue is not likely to take place. He made it clear that he did not participate even indirectly in the dialogue between the Armed Forces and the political parties. After advocating a general amnesty and the recognition of all parties without exception, Seregni remarked that the exercise of power and the overcoming of the serious crisis will be the hardest tasks for the future democratic government. He also stressed that Uruguay should not be a financial market and that it should try to update its techniques in the agricultural and livestock fields and strengthen the industrial sector on the basis of the efforts made by workers. Seregni said that a national accord, without exception, must be attained.

[Begin Seregni recording] What has been deemed imperative and essential for the country is the reconquering and strengthening of democracy. The people and the parties have unanimously agreed that the reconquering and, above all, the strengthening of democracy will be possible only through an accord between the political and the social sectors, so that the policies that the government to be elected in November will adopt may count on the people's broadest support. [end recording]

He also referred to the changes that will have to be introduced in the socioeconomic leadership of the country.

[Begin Seregni recording] I believe that it is absolutely necessary to restructure our economy as a whole and to carry out a deep revision of our socioeconomic structure. Uruguay must update itself. In our opinion, Uruguay cannot be a financial market. Uruguay must update its techniques in the agricultural and livestock fields, adapt the industrial apparatus to its possibilities, and integrate itself, basically, in the Latin American context. All this should be achieved through the broadest possible participation of the citizenry and especially of the working class that is the sector that, in the end, shoulders the weight of the (?crisis). [end recording]

Later, Seregni referred to the guidelines to be followed for the democratization of Uruguay.

[Begin Seregni recording] This, of course, is nothing new, it is the desire and will of the entire Uruguayan population. In the first place, we are absolutely convinced that the task of returning the country to a democracy cannot be carried out by only one enlightened person or one particular political party, but by all political parties and social sectors. We are aware that although this first phase, which will end in November with the assumption to power of the government elected by the people, will be difficult, the most difficult phase will undoubtedly be to really exercise power, to exercise democracy, and to overcome the deep crisis into which the country has plunged and which will not be overcome in a matter of days. We are aware that only by a steady effort, based on an awareness of the problem we are facing, and by the achievement of the largest possible sociopolitical support, will Uruguay be able to ensure the next phases to be carried out by the future government and thus guarantee the continuity of democracy through 1989. [end recording]

Seregni stated that he is willing to hold talks with the representatives of the Armed Forces, although he deems it quite unlikely that such meetings will take place.

[Begin Seregni recording] I think that what you have stated is quite improbable. Nevertheless, in view of our ideals and political and philosophical principles, we have always been and will continue to be willing to hold talks so long as they are constructive and aimed at seeking solutions. [end recording]

SANGUINETTI ON FOREIGN DEBT, U.S. C.A. POLICY

PY220215 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpts] "As of 2 March 1985 no one should be banned in Uruguay, no one should be deprived of his political rights, and none will be," Julio Maria Sanguinetti, executive secretary of the Colorado Party said, among many other things, in the course of a lengthy, complete, and incisive interview conducted by journalist Neber Araujo of Cx8 Radio Sarandi, during the program "En Vivo y En Directo" ["Live and Direct"].

One of the subjects was the foreign debt. "The situation is clear enough: We cannot denounce it, nor can we pay it.... Any government that says it will pay the foreign debt is either lying to itself or to the creditors, because it will not be able to do so even if it is willing."

He went on to say that the debt must be refinanced, renegotiated, and the payments reduced to try to spread it out. "Fortunately, we have a precedent, because Argentina is doing this and it will have an effect on us. Argentina is an important partner who is trying to fight it out, with more influence and 6 months ahead of us. We have to take steps as of December because on 25 November the elections will be over and on 2 December our commission for the refinancing of the foreign debt will be talking to the creditors."

Finally, Sanguinetti said that the United States has always been mistaken "in its policy toward Central America because for years the Marines backed up U.S. business enterprises and then came Carter and his human rights policy changed things around."

'IDEA' FOR NEW LEFT-WING PARTY DISCLOSED

PY220125 Montevideo OPINAR in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] "The idea for the Party of the Independent Democratic Left [Partido de la Izquierda Democratica Independiente] was prompted by the desire to unite all left-wing sectors which do not belong to the Christian Democratic Party, the Socialist Party, or the Communist Party," Danilo Astori, one of the sponsors of this new political group, has told OPINAR.

Astori -- an economist, former dean of the School of Economics and Administration, and journalist -- stressed that the objective is to "bring about the unity of all the left." He stated that the time has come for the left to have some "organized status" in the country, which it has not had so far. He explained that since work on this idea has just begun, "there is nothing concrete for the time being."

He emphasized that "right now what we have is a title (Independent Democratic Left) and an objective." Astori indicated that he would rather not discuss the sectors which have joined the project because the call goes beyond those who have been or are members of a party and includes "all those who have never belonged to a given group." He further said that he never belonged to any party and there are bound to be many citizens in the same situation.

Even though the incipient movement seeks to attain the status of an independent political party, Astori explained that this independence goes only as far as the parties are concerned because "Seregni and the Broad Front are the starting point," which means that "there is absolute support for the Broad Front and its leader."

He added that the idea is to unite the left, turning it into a political instrument, having in mind an independent left capable of having a meaning beyond the elections and not tied to whether these elections are held or not.

He went on to say that the ideological and political platform of the movement is being drawn up "while actions related to the current political status quo are being coordinated."

As to the slogan which will be used at the coming elections, Astori said that it will be "up to the Broad Front" which will have to decide, should the deadline for this decision expire, whether to "take steps to come up with a new slogan for all."

FERREIRA SEEKS AGREEMENTS WITH ARMED FORCES

PY211741 Montevideo OPINAR in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 24

[Excerpts] Wilson Ferreira Aldunate has set 30 April as the deadline for his party to "negotiate" with the military men the terms under which the elections scheduled for November this year will be held.

According to information gleaned by OPINAR from sources of the majority faction of the National Party [PN], the banned leader also indicated that he plans to travel to Buenos Aires around 30 April and that if an agreement is reached with the Armed Forces by that time, he will return to Uruguay shortly afterward or, to be exact, during the first half of May.

This deadline is one of the main items in the letter which Ferreira sent to Juan E. Pivel Devoto, president of the PN. An effort has been made to keep the letter secret even within the cadre of the ACF [For the Fatherland and Rocha National Movement -- majority faction of the National Party].

Meanwhile, various leaders of the PN have been meeting with military officers for the past 30 days. To date, members of this party have held eight meetings with representatives of the Armed Forces, while representatives of the Colorado Party, Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Enrique Tarigo, held only one meeting with the commanders in chief on 14 February. So far the top military officers have met twice with Pivel Devoto, once with Luis A. Lacalle, once with Carlos Julio Pereyra, once with Guillermo Garcia Costa and former deputy for Maldonado, Lieutenant Colonel Miguel A. Galan, retired, and three times with Galan alone. The last three meetings were between Galan and Commander in Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Rodolfo Invidio in Maldonado.

The decision of the majority faction of the PN to negotiate with the military men is perfectly reasonable, especially if one takes into account that in his statement in Palma de Mallorca -- which we published in our 8 March issue -- Ferreira Aldunate himself mentioned the need to hold swift talks with the military men and voiced his opinion that such a dialogue was possible.

However, it is still unclear what will happen if on 30 April, Ferreira's deadline, no agreement is reached regarding the elections set for November this year.

The sources did not want to tell OPINAR what would happen if no agreement is reached. They only said that obviously in order for Ferreira "to head the electoral campaign as the PN presidential candidate, he will have to be in Montevideo early in May"; therefore, the established deadline "would be inflexible."

Some of the "basic" points for discussion indicated by Ferreira include the country's socioeconomic situation and the situation surrounding the "political prisoners." Ferreira also said in Palma de Mallorca that "if the price we have to pay to achieve an environment of national understanding to rebuild the country means sacrificing something, then this price will have to be paid." He added that he is more interested in the future of the country than in "settling accounts."

At the same time, former Senator Alembert Vaz -- who along with Jose Radiccioni met with Ferreira in Spain and who upon his return brought the well-known letter to Pivel -- said in answer to a question from Radio Sarandi that if the Communist Party remains proscribed, the Communist leaders would be contacted to find out what position they would take, because this is an issue that must be resolved by the Communists, thus admitting implicitly that the Communists would remain under proscription.

At the time, when the president of the Democratic Convergence, Juan Raul Ferreira, who is the son of the proscribed leader of the PN, was involved in an exchange of denials with the press agency EFE -- an issue we reported on page 6 of this publication -- leftist sectors questioned the existence of that movement while a PN member wanted the dissolution of this organization.

In view of the possibility that the majority of the sectors which made up the Broad Front coalition during the 1971 elections return to the political scene again this year, leftist leaders reportedly have proposed that the so-called "Convergence" be dissolved because they wish to maintain independence from other parties. They also believe that in order to support the movement headed by Juan Raul Ferreira, all the members of the Broad Front should approve it.

Alembert Vaz explained that the "Convergence" will disappear with the holding of national elections because this is a movement founded by Uruguayans living abroad through which they tried to promote the democratization of the country. It should be pointed out that this issue was discussed at the PN convention and that the party said that it has no official links with this movement.

EFE: STORY ON JUAN FERREIRA MOSCOW VISIT CORRECT

PY212105 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Mar 84 p 2

[Excerpts] On 23 January, EL PAIS and ULTIMAS NOTICIAS published a report datelined Moscow that referred to the visit to Moscow by Uruguayan citizen Juan Raul Ferreira, who resides in Mexico.

Three weeks later, in late February, Alberto Zumaran, co-director of the weekly LA DEMOCRACIA, by telephone requested a copy of the aforementioned report from the EFE news agency. EFE told Mr Zumaran that it would try to get a copy of the report.

Because of the time that had elapsed, this agency no longer had a copy of the report. The reason for this is quite obvious: In compliance with internal regulations and Uruguayan law, this news agency files all the reports that it transmits, but not the ones it receives. As a consequence, Mr Zumaran was informed that the agency no longer had a copy of the report.

A week later, Jose Maria Olier, a journalist of LA DEMOCRACIA, visited the EFE offices bringing a letter signed by Juan Raul Ferreira in which the latter asserted that he had not been in Moscow and denied the EFE report. In view of this, and aware of the impact this matter has for the political party to which Raul Ferreira belongs, EFE explained to Olier that since it did not have a copy of the report that was raising concern, it could not assert that the information published by El PAIS and ULTIMAS NOTICIAS was accurate, but that it presumed it was accurate since that is a norm followed by EFE subscribers and which, so far, has never been violated by any of the mentioned newspapers.

EFE cabled its headquarters in Madrid, requesting that it verify the report datelined in Moscow. This was not done in order to comply with a legal requirement -- which it obviously did not have -- but by loyalty. A copy of the request was kindly delivered to Mr Olier on 5 March.

In view of the request for verification, on 7 March the international director of EFE in Madrid phoned the EFE branch in Montevideo. After pointing out the preferential treatment it was giving to a belated private request, Manuel Velasco, EFE international director, fully verified the report, which stated that Ferreira had been in Moscow and was interviewed by an EFE correspondent during a luncheon held at the "Habana" restaurant in Moscow, and pointed out that there were witnesses at the luncheon.

The following is the text of the explanation signed by Julian Diez Lazaro, EFE correspondent in Moscow: Juan Raul Ferreira, president of the "Democratic Convergence" of Uruguay, was in Moscow from 20 to 30 January for a meeting with Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Uruguayan Communist Party.

BRIEFS

NEW ECUADORAN AMBASSADOR -- Hernan Cueva today presented his credentials as the new Ecuadoran ambassador in Uruguay to President Gregorio Alvarez [Summary] [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND DIES -- Carlos Giambruno, the Uruguayan ambassador to Switzerland, has died at age 55. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84 PY]

COUNCIL OF STATE DESIGNATIONS -- Eduardo Praderi and Marcial Bugallo have been designated vice presidents of the Council of State. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84 PY]

OIL PURCHASES FROM IRAN -- ANCAP [National Administration of Fuels, Alcohol, and Portland Cement] has renewed its contract to purchase petroleum from Iran for another year. ANCAP President Brigadier General (Gordon Villon), who has just returned from Iran, announced that 4,000 barrels will be purchased. [Excerpt] [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 84 PY]

ORTEGA MEETS DE LA MADRID, SPEAKS ON C.A. ISSUES

FL212148 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1825 GMT 21 Mar 84

[By Sadot Fabila Alva]

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today asked Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to intercede to persuade the leaders of the Contadora Group to make a new effort to stop the U.S. escalation of aggression against Central America.

Ortega recalled the efforts the Contadora Group made in November when Nicaragua was facing a similar threat of U.S. intervention. This is a situation that is occurring again and has led us to this meeting with the Mexican president in order to ask him, once more, for the help of the Contadora Group.

Ortega held a news conference after his meeting with President De la Madrid. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Nicaraguan Ambassador Mauricio Cuadra Shultz.

The Nicaraguan leader responded to all the questions asked by local and foreign reporters accredited here. At the beginning of the press conference he made introductory remarks on the reasons for his trip to Mexico and said that he was happy that his visit coincided with the anniversary of the birth of Benito Juarez, the national hero.

Ortega cited Juarez, who once said: Respect for the rights of others, among individuals, as well as among nations, means peace. He noted that this statement is still a great principle that must be defended in Central America, Latin America, and the world today.

He expressed concern to the journalists over the military siege situation in Nicaragua, the troops, the sabotage actions in its ports, and the military supplies in Honduras, the construction of tent hospitals, and the presence of air strips and U.S. fighter planes in that country.

Ortega said that the Reagan administration has created all the logistic conditions for a larger interventionist action in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

He charged that, with its actions, the U.S. Government is trying to undermine the Contadora peace efforts and noted that the Nicaraguans are certain that President De la Madrid will act in accordance with the Contadora Group.

We must acknowledge that Contadora is the only instrument to stop the aggressive policy of the United States, he said, adding that despite all this, Nicaragua is very much aware of the dangers it is facing and is ready for the worst.

He explained that a direct U.S. military intervention in Central America would be an intervention in all the Latin American nations.

He added that the Nicaraguan Government will continue to ask the United Nations for help and that it has asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to visit Nicaragua.

Ortega and D'Escoto had planned to visit Puebla to receive, from the university of that state, original documents that had belonged to Sandino, but they had to cancel the trip in view of the seriousness of the military actions in Puerto Corinto, [as received] where a Soviet tanker was seriously damaged yesterday.

Regarding President De la Madrid's upcoming trip to four South American countries, Ortega said that it was very timely and noted that it will help face the escalation of attacks and strengthen the efforts for a negotiation and political solution to Central American problems.

In regard to elections in El Salvador [words indistinct], he noted that large sectors of the Salvadoran society, including the Army and the government [as received], do not believe in these elections.

Ortega said that he believes that the solution is to form a government of national unity so that it can take specific steps to create the conditions for elections.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR SPEAKS ABOUT C.A., WORLD ISSUES

FL212342 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2036 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated today upon his arrival in this capital that a desire for peace and worldwide coordination to achieve detente regarding international problems are both lacking. He stated that until the nations of the world work together to solve the conflicts which affect us all, it will be impossible to achieve world peace, adding that there are war zones on all five continents.

Perez de Cuellar, who will meet tomorrow with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Friday with President Miguel de la Madrid, stated that in the case of Central America the threat of generalized war is latent.

After stressing the fact that every act that tends to worsen the Central American conflict is reprehensible, he stated that the peace efforts of the Contadora Groups are the only solution to the Central American problem. He stressed that all nations should support the actions of the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. He reiterated that, in order to achieve peace in the Central American area, the United Nations is prepared to continue to cooperate with the Contadora Group whenever its members so desire. The danger of war in Central America is latent and the United Nations must work to reconcile divergent East-West positions, he stated.

He stated that, as his agenda has already been established, he will not visit Nicaragua on his present trip. Nevertheless, he expressed interest in visiting not only that nation but also the entire Central American area to learn the points of view of the Central American leaders on the conflict affecting that area.

PEMEX DIRECTOR NOTES PETROLEUM RESERVES, EARNINGS

FL211348 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0345 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Nuevo Pemex, Tabasco (Mexico), 18 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta today reported that during 1983 petroleum reserves grew by 500 million barrels and that to date, \$16,517,000,000 in foreign exchange has been earned.

In his annual report, the official said that as of 31 December 1983, proven reserves of 1,157,000,000 barrels had been discovered in the Villahermosa area, Tabasco State, alone.

He added that during 1983, 2,665,000 barrels per day were extracted, which allowed Mexico to satisfy its obligations to supply 23 countries as well as to satisfy domestic demand.

Beteta said that the installation of machinery and equipment would permit the reduction of the burning off of natural gas from the more than 600 million cubic feet daily that was burned off in 1982, to just 80 million cubic feet daily.

The chief of Pemex said that his organization has contributed significantly to the country's balance of payments, having earned \$16,517,000,000. With these earnings, it was possible to deduct and absorb operating costs and accounts payable in dollars. Pemex also shows a favorable balance of \$10.6 billion.

Mario Ramon Beteta emphasized that Pemex neither receives subsidies nor incurs losses, since all results are positive. The best evidence of this is that in fiscal year 1983, all the figures were in the black.

Finally, the official said that all of Pemex's profits are added to the national petroleum reserves and will be used for conserving and increasing the country's petroleum wealth.

BRIEFS

PRI LEADERSHIP CHANGES -- The National Executive Council, CEN, of Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, has appointed Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras as the new secretary of ideological propaganda; Cesar Mendoza Aramburu has been appointed to replace Gonzalez Paras as CEN's general director for promotion and management; Miguel Angel Barberena has been appointed the CEN delegate in Hidalgo; Ricardo Carrillo Arronte will take over as coordinator of the popular culture program; and Angel Sergio Guerrero Mier has been made the CEN delegate to the State of Mexico. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 1A PA]

CURRENCY SYSTEM REORGANIZED -- The Bank of Mexico announced the complete reorganization of the Mexican currency system yesterday. As a first step, a new peso coin, made of stainless steel, will be put into circulation on 14 March. Later in the year, the 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 peso coins will be replaced, and coins of 2 and 200 pesos will be minted. [Summary] [Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 10 Mar 84 p 6 PA]

HEALTH AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALA -- Tapachula, Chiapas, 8 Mar -- Mexico and Guatemala signed an agreement in this city today to review, modernize, and if necessary to create laws facilitating the implementation of health programs that will be carried out in the common border area. The agreement will make it possible to step up efforts to control contagious and noncontagious diseases in all towns in the border area. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 7 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA211710 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2308 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Panama City, 20 Mar (DPA) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega has told DPA that "things will go better for Central America after the regional peace agreement is signed."

Ortega, who is part of the Contadora Group along with Mexico's Bernardo Sepulveda, Colombia's Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, and Venezuela's Isidro Morales, said that "30 April is near. On that date, the work groups will complete the documents pertaining to security, economics, and political affairs."

Ortega indicated that "from then on we will have a broad base on which to implement the regional peace agreement."

Asked if the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran guerrilla groups will be included in a regional cease-fire agreement, he said that "with the legal instrument, with the signing of the agreement, it will be easier to reach a lasting peace in Central America."

"On 30 April we will be entering the final stage, because the four Contadora Group foreign ministers will meet with their five Central American colleagues and it will be the culmination of a great effort that began on 8 January 1983."

"We will respect the will of the five Central American countries regarding the solution of the conflicts."

Ortega pointed out that "the Contadora Group efforts have benefited the quest for peace."

In response to a DPA remark suggesting that the Contadora Group has been criticized because of the slowness of its decisions, Ortega replied that "if we would have acted speedily, maybe even in haste, as many wanted us to, we would not have obtained the consensus of the five countries of the area."

He rejected public accusations claiming that the Contadora Group favors the Sandinist Government. "Everything that has been agreed upon so far has been by unanimity, and what will be agreed upon in the future will be by unanimity," he said.

Ortega was very precise: "The Contadora Group efforts have prevented a war in Central America and we can all agree on that. We have prevented the worst thing."

He added that "now, the political, security, and economic commissions are working well through the 'technical commission,' and on 30 April a new phase of the Contadora Group will begin."

"Give us time, we are doing well," the Panamanian foreign minister said, who stated "positive, realist, and not a utopian optimist." [sentence as received]

In conclusion, Ortega reiterated that "we are close to the finish line in this race toward Central American peace."

PEOPLE'S PARTY CANDIDATE SAID ATTACKED BY PRD

PA220125 Panama City YA in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 16, 2

[Text] The political campaign has taken a turn for the worse in this capital, where groups of individuals belonging to the Democratic National Union, UNADE, which is backing Nicolas Ardito Barletta's candidacy, are attacking the candidates of the People's Party (communist) with firearms and clubs.

The first serious victim of the political campaign is Pastor Falconett, a 30-year-old agricultural expert and a candidate for corregimiento representative from Calidonia. He was savagely attacked Monday night by members of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], led by Alberto Aleman Boyd.

Falconett, a candidate for corregimiento representative for the People's Party and the People's Union for the Renovation of Calidonia [Union Popular para la Renovacion de Calidonia], told this newspaper that he was returning from a political meeting via Cuba Avenue and Justo Arosemena Avenue when he was attacked by several men, led by Alberto Aleman Boyd.

Falconett said that Aleman Boyd, the PRD candidate for Legislative Assembly Circuit 8-7, "pointed his gun at me and told his men: Here he is."

Falconett said that he was attacked by 12 men. They were carrying sticks, knives, and clubs, and all of them were yelling.

This action, carried out by a member of the PRD against a candidate of the People's Party, which still supports the process, reincarnates the infamous group known as "Warpath" [Pie de Guerra] that assaulted everyone opposed to the government in the 40's and 50's.

Falconett received serious injuries to his face, forehead, and hip. He was also kicked in the chest and had a deep cut on his right thigh.

Members of the People's Party who were accompanying their candidate when the incident took place said that 50 persons were present when Aleman Boyd attacked Falconett.

Pura Caicedo, corregidora of Calidonia, ordered all political propaganda opposed to UNADE torn down on learning that candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta was to visit the corregimiento.

Euclides Caicedo, the son of Corregidora Pura Caicedo, is an alternate of PRD candidate Aleman Boyd.

ARNULFO ARIAS DISCUSSES POLITICAL ISSUES

PA210159 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 11A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Excerpts] During an interview granted to journalists last weekend, Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, three-time president of Panama, said: "Military men will always be needed. However, they must be honest and not be involved with drugs and arms shipments to other countries." Arias is the presidential candidate of the Democratic Opposition Alliance.

Dr Arias spoke about the possible participation of the military in the government that will emerge from the 6 May elections. Some political leaders have said they believe the military will continue to be a power factor.

The interview with the Authentic Panamenist Party leader took place in his country home called Arco Iris, in Boquete, Chiriqui. Vice presidential candidate Carlos F. Rodriguez and other Panamenist leaders were present. The interview was held prior to the political tour of Bocas del Toro the leaders began this past weekend.

Arias said that he has been overthrown on three different occasions by three different commanders because of conflicts between the president's rules and those of the commanders. He added: "We cannot have a government within a government. The authority of the presidency must be respected."

Arias was moderate when asked his opinion of the course of Panama's international policy and the Contadora Group, but at the same time caustic when he said that although the policy is good, there is too much talk.

Referring to the Central American situation, he admitted that U.S. intervention in the area is great, although he did not say if such intervention is direct or indirect, but that it could be seen in the large sums of money being offered to various countries, including Panama. However, he criticized the recipients of the money for not assuming their responsibility, and stated that the United States is certainly the most generous country in the world.

In response to reporters' questions about Law 20 of 1984 [as published], which regulates the National Defense Forces, Dr Arias Madrid said that he has personally told General Manuel Antonio Noriega that the law should be changed.

We learned that he met with Noriega the day before the party's national convention in Anton. It was a cordial meeting, since Arias talks to friends and foes as easily as he does to reporters.

During their meeting they discussed national problems in which both he and Noriega are interested. His personal opinion is that Noriega is a bit unstable, and that it is absolutely ridiculous for a man who has never been to war to be a four star general, a rank he assumed after General Paredes retired.

Regarding the former president's [Ricardo de la Espriella] unexpected resignation, he said: "I feel that to a certain extent he was right...." He added: "When a person is up against a wall and is asked to do things that violate his principles, he either leaves or stays. If he stays he will receive the punishment he deserves. I have some bullet wounds -- here are the scars -- that I received while I was president of the Republic, because Remon [former president and National Guard director] did not want his brother-in-law to be the comptroller."

Asked about a presidential candidate's proposal for a defense ministry, he said that it was too much for a poor country like Panama. He did not discard the possibility of eliminating some ministries, but said this was better left for October 1984, when he hopes to be installed with his cabinet.

BRIEFS

FRG LEGISLATORS VISIT -- Members of the FRG parliament have met with Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega to discuss Panama's situation and bilateral cooperation. Foreign Minister Ortega explained Panama's foreign and domestic policies, stressing Panama's participation in the Contadora Group. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 27 PA]

POLISH OFFICIAL VISITS -- Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Josef Wiejacz has paid a courtesy call on Panamanian Deputy Education Minister Lorenzo Palma. [Summary] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 84 PA]

COSTA RICANEW ORGANIZATION THREATENS U.S. INTERESTS

PA212019 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1832 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A so-called "Command Against Filibusters in Central America" [Comando Contra Filibusteros en Centroamerica] today threatened "installations and firms representing U.S. interests" in Costa Rica. The group, which was unknown until today and which claims to have no alignment with capitalism or communism, based its threats against the North Americans on "the serious situation in Central America and the growing U.S. intervention in the area."

In a communique delivered to ACAN-EFE by a motorcyclist who covered his face with a helmet, the "command" said that U.S. intervention in the area is "driving away all possibilities for a political solution of the crisis" and is promoting a generalized war in the region. The communique also noted that the mining of Nicaraguan ports "is an extremely dangerous step in worsening the regional situation."

The appearance of this new political group, "made up of Costa Rican patriots," as they described themselves, has taken place only 24 hours after a Soviet tanker was damaged by a mine in the Sandino Port, on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. "If the U.S. Government does not change its policy toward the region," the communique concluded, "we solemnly commit ourselves to challenging that anti-Central American policy with actions."

VICE PRESIDENT ARAUZ DENIES NICARAGUAN CHARGE

PA212012 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] In an emergency meeting yesterday, the Costa Rican Security Council categorically denied the Nicaraguan charge that another counterrevolutionary attack on Penas Blancas, Nicaragua, originated in our territory. This incident has increased the danger on our northern border.

Vice President Armando Arauz said that he had received reports from police officers in the border area stating that the attack took place within Nicaragua, and that, so far, there is no proof that the attack was launched from our country. Arauz said that the Security Council described the Nicaraguan charge as not deserving further comment. The Civil Police are on a permanent state of alert in the border area to prevent the infiltration of counterrevolutionary forces into Nicaragua.

Arauz added: "Our country will continue to safeguard the principles of our neutrality declaration. Therefore, and as a result of recent incidents, we will act very vigorously to prevent the violation of our territory and our sovereignty." The incidents that have taken place lately, which reached their climax yesterday with the Nicaraguan charge, have weakened our relations with that neighboring nation.

Arauz dismissed Eden Pastora's harsh remarks about the Costa Rican Civil Police and his description of the Costa Rican Government as communist. Arauz said: "We reject that kind of statement because it is improper and disrespectful." The vice president said that Costa Rica does not accept that kind of statement from anyone.

Commenting on the Civil Police stationed in the border area, he said that they have specific orders to strictly enforce the neutrality decreed by the president of the Republic and the Security Council. The Security Council reiterated its determination to continue police sweep operations and attempts to track down and to arrest counter-revolutionary groups in order to prevent the violation of our sovereignty.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

PA211518 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The president of the Central Bank, Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo, today announced at a news conference his resignation effective 1 April to enable him to enter the race for the National Liberation Party's presidential nomination in the 1986 elections. According to government circles, Finance Minister Dr Federico Bargas Peralta will replace Dr Castillo as bank president. According to National Liberation Party sources, the presidential candidate will be chosen in a plebiscite. Although there has as yet been no official announcement on the presentation of the Carlos Castillo-Alberto Fait coalition, informed party circles believed that it is intended to thwart Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez' aspirations for the party nomination.

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA CHARGES REBEL LINKS WITH UNION LEADERS

PA211430 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA -- live]

[Text] MUSIGES and FENASTRAS Are Appendages to the FMLN

COPREFA's statements about the links between the FDR-FMLN and the oligarchs who lead the Salvadoran workers' unions and organizations have been confirmed by several documents issued by these organizations. They are also confirmed in the FDR charter.

An FDR-FMLN memorandum on the Salvadoran situation, dated in Spain on 2 December 1983, refers on page 7 to the people's organization and struggle as follows: The people's movement is being carried out within the framework of the people's revolutionary war. The union movement itself comprises the majority of the unions, federations, and independent unions belonging to the Salvadoran Unified Trade Union Movement, MUSIGES.

The document reasserts what was said by COPREFA regarding MUSIGES -- that despite having denied its links with the FMLN-FDR, it maintains an anti-elections position similar to that held by the terrorists. Likewise, during the presentation of the November 82-83 minutes of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation, FENASTRAS, the board of directors sent fraternal greetings to all the FMLN members.

The same FENASTRAS document also states that their main goal is to incite the masses in the capital, which is part of the announced terrorist boycott of the elections. Union movement plans for 1984 also recognize the absence of the drivers' union, which is termed sectarian and incompetent.

These are but a few examples of the manipulation of the workers' needs by the union oligarchs, who obey instructions from the FDR, whose charter includes organizations such as FENASTRAS. The documents do not lie; they reflect the FMLN maneuvers against the 25 March elections, using leaders who do not serve their group members, but instead serve the leaders who have placed them in their positions.

ARMY CARRIES OUT OPERATIONS AGAINST GUERRILLAS

Searches Houses for Weapons

PA210502 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 49

[Excerpt] Military sources have reported that the military search operations that began on Monday in San Miguel have extended to other places in the country, mainly in the neighborhoods located in the outskirts of San Salvador. The object of these searches is to look for weapons or devices that might be used to make bombs. There was a search in the Santa Lucia neighborhood, Ilopango area, on Monday morning, and the Army confiscated several rifles, military uniforms, and devices to make bombs. There is no information regarding arrests.

The Army has discovered that weapons and elements used to make bombs are being smuggled into the country for the purpose of interfering with the 25 March elections. According to information reported yesterday, seven members of the FMLN were arrested yesterday, and they disclosed information about the guerrilla groups' plans to interfere with the presidential elections.

Residents of the Santa Lucia area also report that troops have been searching Cerro San Jacinto, looking for anyone who might have been posted on the highest places to attack the garrisons in San Salvador or simply to terrorize the civilian population by carrying out shellings from the area. It has been reported that the Army's activity has been timely and has possibly prevented any guerrilla attacks for the next days.

Patrols Pan-American Highway

PA220009 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] San Vicente, 20 Mar -- Colonel Roberto Rodriguez Murcia, commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in this city, has assumed command of an armed unit that left this morning to patrol the Pan-American Highway between San Rafael Cedros and the Lempa River in the event that the guerrillas appear, according to a 5th Infantry Brigade spokesman. The spokesman explained that the troops had been sent there to protect drivers on the Coastal Highway and access roads linked to the Pan-American Highway and the Coastal Highway. Rumors circulating here indicated that beginning tomorrow subversive groups would take drastic measures against any vehicle traveling the roads that lead to the eastern part of the country. Some drivers reported that they have received warnings to stop operating their cargo or passenger vehicles as of 21 March.

Meanwhile, we have received reports that fighting between the Army and the extremists is taking place outside of the City of San Sebastian and north of there. The report mentions casualties, but gives no figures. Bursts of machine gun and rifle fire were heard last night in San Sebastian, coming from the south, in the direction of Los Pozos, Dos Quebradas and San Diego cantons.

Launches 2d Phase of Search

PA212216 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 2, 52

[Text] The second phase of the Armed Forces' search operation today began in the northern sector of the City of San Miguel and some sectors of Usulután and San Miguel Departments. Some 5,000 soldiers are participating in the search operation, which is similar to one launched over a week ago.

The "Welfare for Usulután" operation which consists of military search patrols and installations of health, first aid, emergency, and distribution centers, is currently underway in Usulután Department. The inhabitants of this department are receiving the benefits of activities being conducted by the civic-military brigades.

The northern sector of San Miguel Department, the villages of Nuevo Eden de San Juan, Carolina, San Antonio, San Nicolas la Reina, and nearby rural areas are included in the Armed Forces' search operation.

This second phase of the search operation, which is being carried out in the northeastern and central zone of San Miguel Department, also includes other regions experiencing problems, a military source said.

The Armed Forces are also giving special attention to Morazan Department, where the terrorist groups had been entrenched for the longest time. In recent weeks they have been dispersed, some of them fleeing to Usulután, San Miguel, and the central zone, the military source reported.

Declares Maximum Alert

PA230045 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0029 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Mar (DPA) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces today declared a maximum state of alert in view of the upcoming elections, scheduled for Sunday, 25 March. It was learned that the major streets and neighborhoods of the capital, San Salvador, are being closely patrolled to prevent attacks by the FMLN, which announced on Radio Venceremos that it will not yield in its war and that there will be no truce.

FARABUNDO MARTI NOTES U.S. CARRIER NEAR COAST

PA220235 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Attention, much attention Salvadoran people: The U.S. Army Southern Command is planning to carry out air raids against the Salvadoran people in areas under revolutionary control. The aircraft carrier Kennedy is currently off the Salvadoran coast, just as U.S. ships were in 1932, to support the puppet dictatorship. The aircraft carrier Kennedy and other U.S. warships are off our coasts, and the United States is planning to use the fighter bombers [passage indistinct] Cabanas, Morazan, and Chalatenango.

According to additional information released by the FMLN a few days ago, the U.S. Southern Command has devised a broad plan against the FMLN. The Yankees have admitted that U.S. Air Force planes have carried out more than 100 reconnaissance flights over our country's northern region bordering Honduras. The Yankees [word indistinct].

REPORTAGE ON REBEL RESPONSE TO ELECTIONS

Identification Cards Said Stolen

PA210455 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 84 pp 3, 57

[Excerpt] San Miguel -- Approximately 1,000 personal identification cards were stolen by the rebels last Sunday on the Pan-American Highway, according to information supplied by the victims. The thefts occurred between the access roads to Villa El Triunfo and to Lolotique, a stretch of approximately 10 km. The rebels stopped vehicles and took the drivers' and passengers' personal effects, money, and personal identification cards, which will be returned "after the elections." The terrorists stayed in the area for several hours on Sunday morning and stopped people who were driving toward San Salvador or coming toward cities here in the eastern region.

It has been unofficially reported that the terrorists attacked Villa El Triunfo, but there is no information about the results of this action.

It has also been reported that terrorists are prepared to boycott next Sunday's presidential elections in any possible way, and that they have decided to steal the travelers' personal identification cards so that they cannot vote because they do not have this document in their possession. It has been officially nevertheless, that it is possible that the municipal offices will be authorized to issue duplicate personal identification cards to replace the stolen ones in the days prior to the elections if a person can prove his card was stolen by the guerrillas. This emergency measure has not yet been confirmed by the Interior Ministry or the Central Electoral Council.

Some 31 FMLN terrorists were killed by the Army over the weekend in various parts of the country, according to military sources. Another 20 rebels died near the town of San Antonio Potrerillos, Jiquilisco canton, Usulután Department, when members of the Ramon Belloso Battalion surprised rebel columns and a clash ensued. The Army suffered 3 dead and 12 wounded. Members of the Cuscatlan Battalion clashed with rebels near San Luis de la Reina, east of San Miguel, inflicting 11 deaths on the terrorists and a still undetermined number of wounded. According to their communique, the Armed Forces suffered no casualties in this clash.

FMLN-FDR Issues Communique

PA211606 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1459 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- "The Salvadoran presidential and vice-presidential elections of 1984 are not legitimate, they lack the minimum democratic conditions, and they are not an alternative to the current crisis." This is the Salvadoran guerrillas' main conclusion regarding next Sunday's elections, as disclosed in an official communique signed by the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, and the FMLN and released to the press in San Salvador. The guerrillas believe that these elections "are another instrument in the U.S. Government's strategy to promote a counterinsurgency war against our people."

The rebels, who have been attempting to topple the government for the past 4 years, maintain that El Salvador is in a state of internal war "as a result of the denial of the most fundamental rights to the people and of a long-standing situation of social injustice."

The communique adds that "this state of war will continue during and after the 1984 elections and that the fundamental decisions will continue to be made by the Army high command and the Ronald Reagan administration no matter what the results of the election may be."

The guerrillas claim that they control one-fifth of El Salvador and that the FMLN forces are present in no less than 70 of the 261 municipalities in El Salvador.

The FDR-FMLN maintains that in order for an electoral process to be legitimate, a number of socio-political conditions must exist and at present these conditions have not been met. According to the official document, the constant activity of the "death squads," "the widespread repression of the civilian population" by the Army and the security forces, and the state of siege that has been in effect for the past 4 years do not permit a free, popular election.

The FDR-FMLN also says that the compulsory character of the vote "goes against individual freedoms" because the authorities will be able to know how a citizen has voted, since the voters' identification papers will be punched at the moment that they cast their ballots. "In view of the climate of political terror in the country, where the mere suspicion of favoring the opposition can cost one his life, it is logical that the citizen will be forced to vote to protect his personal safety," the communique adds.

The guerrillas are also protesting the fact that the vote is not secret, in view of the fact that the numbered ballots can be checked off against the identity papers. Personal data will be recorded at the very moment that the poll issues the ballot.

Meanwhile, assessing the most important candidates, the FMLN-FDR comments that Roberto D'Aubuisson, the leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance (ARENA), represents the most reactionary interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy and conservative sectors, the rejection of any socioeconomic changes for our people, and an increase in indiscriminate repression."

"The Christian Democrats led by Napoleon Duarte," the rebels' official communique adds, "represent the plans of the current Washington administration, which is to say reforms coupled with repression." Duarte's policy, which is aligned with the U.S. Government, is not one of negotiation and dialogue," it adds, "even though he claims the opposite in private meetings with his foreign visitors."

In addition, the rebels believe that the option represented by moderate Francisco Jose Guerrero of the National Conciliation Party (PCN) is summed up in "the PCN's 19 years in power (1961-1979), which were noted for growing repression, rampant corruption, electoral frauds, inefficient administration, and the refusal to promote even minimal socioeconomic changes."

As an eventual solution to the armed conflict, the guerrillas insist that a broad-based provisional government must be created "with representatives of the various sectors that today are in conflict, which will take on the most urgent task of ending the war." The rebels offer to participate in general elections "at a time that is previously agreed upon by the parties in conflict." Because of all of this, the FMLN-FDR declares that "it does not recognize the government that will result from the elections. We oppose the elections," it adds, "but we do not consider the electoral process a military objective."

For election day, next Sunday, the two fronts have decided neither to support any of the candidates nor to ask the people to turn in blank votes, "because the regime would manipulate the number of blank votes." The order "don't vote" has been disseminated in the areas controlled by the guerrillas, although in "the Army's rearguard areas, the watch word is 'if you feel that your security is threatened, let them punch your cedula,' the identity card, since the basic problem there is that the voters are coerced through grave threats to their personal security," the communique concludes.

Broadcast From Seized Station

PA211607 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 21 Mar (AFP) -- The FMLN this morning occupied two stations in the Salvadoran capital to broadcast a message outlining its position on the elections to be held Sunday, which it does not regard as an option for a solution of the Salvadoran conflict. In addition to seizing the stations, the FMLN released the communique, which bears the acronym of the FDR and FMLN, to the foreign press.

The elections "are not an alternative because El Salvador is in a state of civil war and it will continue during and after the elections, regardless of the results," the document says. Radio Cadena Central [Radio] Mil Ochenta and Radio El Mundo [as received], located in the north and central sections of San Salvador's urban area, broadcast the message for approximately 15 minutes until the local authorities intervened and stopped the transmission.

During this brief period, however, the guerrillas managed to condemn the elections and to give a brief analysis of each of the parties that will participate in the elections of 25 March, terming the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) the party of the exploiting oligarchy led by a "murderous psychopath, creator of the death squads."

FMLN-FDR Denies Changing Stance

PA212256 Paris AFP in Spanish 2023 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (AFP) -- El Salvador's FMLN-FDR denied here today that they have made any change in their policy regarding the presidential elections to be held in their country on 25 March. Jorge Villacorta, representative of the Salvadoran opposition fronts here, accused Army members, "who are posing as members of our forces," of seizing identification cards along the Salvadoran highways in an apparent attempt to disrupt the elections. "We flatly deny that our forces are seizing cédulas. It is not our policy to block or attack electoral objectives," Villacorta explained. "We have made no change in our original proposal. The war will continue, independent of the elections. We will continue to attack military targets."

The seizure of identification cards, which are required to vote in Sunday's elections, was criticized by Salvadoran and foreign press organizations as a new guerrilla act to sabotage the elections. "This is a misinformation campaign by the Army," Villacorta remarked, adding that the military will also conduct "other types of activities such as this in an attempt to discredit us."

"It is absurd that we would take identification cards from the citizens, endangering our own lives, when we are living in a state of terror in El Salvador, where anyone who does not vote endangers his own life." "Even if it would affect the electoral results, such a move would not make sense, because, just as in the elections for the Constituent Assembly members in March 1982, 100 percent of the citizens will vote, even if we were to seize 100 percent of the identification cards," Villacorta concluded.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA DENIES PARTICIPATION IN JOINT MANEUVERS

PA212305 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores yesterday referred to the presence of Soviet ships off the Central American coasts and said that defense of the Caribbean Sea is not our responsibility. He added that our Army "will not participate in the military maneuvers taking place in Honduras." International news reports received in the country say that U.S. troops stationed in Honduras and that neighboring country's Army will conduct new military maneuvers and have invited the Guatemalan Army to join them.

The reports also say that several Soviet ships are en route to Nicaragua. According to these reports, this could worsen the Central American situation. Gen Mejia Victores was asked about the presence of Soviet ships, and he replied: "The defense of the Caribbean Sea is not Guatemala's responsibility." In addition, he said, we do not have the means for that.

We Will Not Participate in the Maneuvers

The Honduran Army is preparing to participate in the joint military maneuvers with U.S. troops. Gen Mejia reiterated that his government has not been invited to send Guatemalan forces to participate in the maneuvers. Even if we had been invited, he pointed out, we could not participate, because "we do not have the capacity." In other words, the Guatemalan Army uses its resources for its main responsibility: guarding Guatemala's security and peace.

CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] Will Not Be Convoked

A reporter asked the head of state if CONDECA would be convoked because of the Soviet presence in Central America. The head of state's answer was a single word: No.

MEJIA CITES U.S. EMBASSY, GENEVA STATEMENTS

PA212243 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores has said that the U.S. Embassy statement supporting the electoral process in Guatemala shows that Guatemala's image has changed completely. Asked if this statement represents tacit support for Guatemala, Gen Mejia Victores said that anything favoring the country represents support.

Regarding the statements made in Geneva favoring human rights in Guatemala, Gen Mejia said that that was a great step forward. The head of state said: "This means that the human rights situation in Guatemala has improved."

There are things that are believed although they are not true, and suppos everybody believes the same thing. [sentence as published]

The Oil Law

Regarding attacks on the oil law, Gen Mejia Victores said these attacks are positive, because they permit discussion and review, and if the law is not suitable we can make changes. The head of state said that daily fuel expenditures are necessary. He noted that he does not know if these expenditures amount to 1 million quetzales daily, as has been reported. Gen Mejia said that once the oil law is studied it could be reformed. However, he said that he could give oil companies facilities to operate in Guatemala as long as the country is not hurt because "when a foreigner gets more, a Guatemalan is getting less."

FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE MAKES REPORT TO CABINET

Discusses Belize, Refugees

PA210240 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Mar 84 pp 4, 50

[Text] A new round of talks with Great Britain will resume in order to reach final agreement on the problem of Belize, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said yesterday. Andrade Diaz-Duran, who explained the Foreign Ministry's activities for the coming year at a cabinet meeting yesterday, said that Belize will not be recognized by Guatemala as an independent state until a just solution is reached in which our rights over that territory are acknowledged. He said that contacts with British officials have been maintained about the possible resumption of negotiations, which could take place within the next 2 months.

Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran told a PRENSA LIBRE reporter that during yesterday's cabinet meeting he explained the Foreign Ministry's plans for 1984, which include maintaining a climate of peace, improving the country's image abroad, and solving the problems of the refugees, Belize, and others. Referring to Guatemalan refugees in Chiapas State, Mexico, Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran said that he trusts that adequate measures will be taken before the end of the year so that our fellow citizens can voluntarily return to Guatemala in an orderly manner. The government is aware of the problems our brothers are facing and for this reason we will provide them with all the necessary facilities and support so that they can resume a productive life under better conditions, Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran said.

Salvadoran Cancels Visit

PA202254 Guatemala City Radio-Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena has canceled a 2-day official visit to Guatemala that had been scheduled for today. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran made the announcement at the Presidential House, during a cabinet meeting in which no important issues were discussed, according to some ministers, who just filed reports on their work plans.

Here is what Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran told newsmen:

[Begin recording] [Andrade] my report dealt mainly with the Central American situation, Guatemala's participation in the Contadora Group efforts and in international organizations like the United Nations and the OAS, and other issues of national interest.

It also referred to the problem with Belize, to the Guatemalan refugees in Mexican territory, to the commercial agreement that was recently signed with Colombia, and to the one that will be signed soon with the Mexican Government.

The report was aimed at keeping the government abreast of what the Foreign Ministry had achieved from August 1983 to this date. Another issue included in the report was the negotiations with Spain to try to resume diplomatic relations.

[Unidentified reporter] How are the negotiations coming along?

[Andrade] As I said a few weeks ago during a news conference, we are still in an initial stage, but we hope to arrange contacts so that talks can be resumed soon. [end recording]

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON RETURN FROM U.S. VISIT

PA212005 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 3

[By Marco Tulio Romero]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday announced that the Reagan administration has offered strong support to the Honduran Government. Paz Barnica returned from Washington yesterday. At a press conference late yesterday afternoon, Paz Barnica spoke of his achievements in the United States following his meeting with President Ronald Reagan, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and some 50 U.S. Congressmen.

The Honduran foreign secretary went into detail about President Reagan's high opinion of his Honduran counterpart, Roberto Suazo Cordova, the result in part of the implementation of honest austerity in the country. Furthermore, according to Paz Barnica, this understanding is seen in the desire to help the country economically and to improve relations at all levels, as expressed in the aid plan drafted by the Kissinger commission.

Military Maneuvers

On the military maneuvers being held near Tegucigalpa, the official said that they are nothing new and are intended to train our Army for the defense of our sovereignty. "There is no alternative but to prepare, given the disproportionate military growth in Nicaragua. According to reports, they already have 300,000 armed men and 7,000 Cuban advisers."

There Will Be No War

The Honduran foreign secretary said that as far as the Honduran authorities are concerned there will never be war between Honduras and Nicaragua, and that Honduras will never attempt an attack, even with the tip of a pen, on its neighboring republic. He emphasized that the military maneuvers are being held to support the Contadora Group's efforts, as well as all other efforts, including within the economic sphere, to secure peace.

The Sandinists Don't Comply

Pax Barnica mentioned the statement made by Commander Tomas Borge, who told the press that if an agreement is reached all advisers would be sent home. "But that is the problem with those people, they don't practice what they preach. We learned only last week that more Cuban and Soviet advisers had arrived in Nicaragua, a fact that belies his statement," the foreign secretary added.

ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO EL SALVADOR SUSPENDED

PA212306 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2102 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Foreign Secretariat has suspended as of today the issuance of visas to Hondurans wanting to travel to El Salvador. According to a Foreign Secretariat spokesman, the measure is designed to prevent Hondurans from becoming victims of the violence in El Salvador, which will probably be increased with the upcoming 25 March elections. According to the spokesman, the restriction will be lifted after the elections in El Salvador and when the warlike tension has been reduced. Visas will be granted only to Salvadoran citizens who reside in Honduras or who are on a stopover here.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT REACTS TO MINE DAMAGING SOVIET SHIP

Issues Statement

PA211911 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Statement issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 20 March]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reports: Today at 1340 the Soviet vessel Lugansk, which was transporting oil to Nicaragua, was damaged by the explosion of a mine set by mercenaries who work for the U.S. Government as it sailed past buoy No 1 on its way into the Port of Sandino. Five Soviet crew members were wounded as a result of the criminal action. Despite the above terrorist action, the vessel is currently unloading its cargo at the Port of Sandino piers.

This last criminal attack follows those carried out in Bluefields and Corinto, in Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific waters. Together they constitute the de facto blockade that the United States is promoting against Nicaragua as part of its undeclared war against the Nicaraguan people. It also serves to reaffirm the aggressive and criminal quality of the U.S. policy of terrorism promoted by the Reagan administration in its eagerness to reestablish its domination over Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Government regrets the fact that Soviet sailors, together with the Dutch and Central American sailors who were previously affected by attacks, have been victims of the irrational U.S. policy at the same time that it denounces the danger that the indiscriminate placement of mines and explosives represents to international maritime traffic along the Central American coasts.

The Nicaraguan Government wishes to reiterate its willingness to continue struggling for peace in Central America and issues a new call to the international community to provide Nicaragua with the technical and military means necessary to defend itself from the state terrorism unleashed by the U.S. Government.

Blames U.S. for Explosion

PA211642 Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Government has held the U.S. Administration responsible for the explosion in the Port of Sandino of a mine that damaged the Soviet tanker Lugansk and wounded five sailors.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today issued a note that the United States is promoting "a de facto blockade" against the country's main ports "in its undeclared war against Nicaragua."

The Lugansk was rocked by the explosion at 1340 on Tuesday. The explosion took place approximately 3 miles from the port, which is 70 km west of Managua, while the tanker was approaching an oil terminal to deliver 250,000 barrels of crude oil from the Soviet Union.

As a result of the impact, five Soviet sailors were injured. Two of them, Nicolai Zretiakov and Autaudil Salijazadze, had to be urgently taken to a Soviet hospital operating in Chinandega Department, 130 km northwest of Managua.

It was announced this morning that the sailors are out of danger although one of them has spinal injuries, according to a medical report. State Security Deputy Chief Commander Manuel Calderon has said that the Sandinist Navy is searching the port, but so far no other explosives have been detected.

Calderon said that in spite of the explosion, the Soviet tanker began unloading crude oil at 1800 hours Tuesday. A group of newsmen who last night went to the Port of Sandino with Defense Ministry officials was unable to board the Soviet ship, on orders from its captain.

Meanwhile, political and diplomatic circles in this capital are concerned over the possible implications of the mining of Nicaragua's ports. A Western European diplomatic source said: "It is evident that the North Americans want to suffocate the Sandinist revolution and this could have very serious consequences not only for Nicaragua but also for the entire Central American region."

In the past 4 weeks, three large ships with Soviet, Panamanian, and Netherlands flags have been damaged in the Ports of Sandino and Corinto, the country's most important ports. Two Nicaraguan fishing vessels have been sunk in El Bluff, on the Atlantic.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has denounced "the danger that the indiscriminate placing of mines and explosives represents for international sea traffic."

DANIEL ORTEGA INTERRUPTS VISIT TO MEXICO

Ship Incident Given as Reason

PA211656 Paris AFP in Spanish 1634 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega today interrupted his visit to Mexico to return to Nicaragua in view of the recent developments that have taken place at the Port of Sandino, where a mine damaged a Soviet tanker.

Government sources have said that Ortega is expected in Managua shortly after noon today rather than tomorrow as had been scheduled.

Daniel Ortega's visit to Mexico began yesterday. This morning he had breakfast with President Miguel de la Madrid to discuss the critical situation that Central America is experiencing.

In Mexico, Ortega said that the United States has set into motion a plan that can lead to a military intervention against Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Requests Contadora Aid

PA220334 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Nicaragua has suggested to Mexico that the Contadora Group make special efforts to counteract the prevailing U.S. attacks on Central America, said Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, on his return to Nicaragua following a 24-hour visit to Mexico.

[Begin Ortega recording] The specific suggestion that Nicaragua presented to President De la Madrid, president of a government that is a vital component of the Contadora Group, was the need for Contadora to make extraordinary efforts to stop the intensive escalation of the U.S. presence in the region and [words indistinct] necessary and appropriate conditions to continue with the process of dialogue and negotiations within the Contadora framework.

Nicaragua feels that an adequate course is needed. This is currently being affected by the aggressive policy of the United States, its increased military actions, the presence of its troops in the Central American region, the presence of its warships and carriers, and the mining of the Nicaraguan ports. All we have to do is look at yesterday's incident involving a Soviet ship that became a victim of these aggressive actions. To this we must add the Netherlands and Panamanian ships that were affected by the terrorist actions that the Reagan administration is promoting against Nicaragua.

This new crisis demands action by the international community especially from the Contadora Group, which is the tool that Latin America has to face and stop this aggressive U.S. policy and to open a political solution to the problems of the Central American region.

We are sending letters to Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchí, Panamanian President Jorge Illueca, and Argentine President Raul Alfonsín about this matter. [end recording]

Ortega said that in view of the aggressive escalation, all Nicaragua has left to do is to bring this to the attention of the international community.

[Begin Ortega recording] This is not a counterrevolutionary strategy, but a U.S. strategy; it is the strategy of the U.S. Administration. The counterrevolutionaries are nothing more than an artificial means to justify the criminal action against the Nicaraguan people. We all know that it is the U.S. Administration that has decided to plant the mines in Nicaraguan ports; the USSR has clearly stated this. The Soviet Foreign Minister has protested to the U.S. charge d'affaires about the criminal action against the Soviet tanker [words indistinct].

We can't make a mistake in this regard. All Nicaragua has left to do in the face of this increased terrorism by the United States, the U.S. Government, against the Nicaraguan Government and people is to bring this to the attention of the international community and, logically, request [words indistinct] necessary means to face these attacks. [end recording]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA DISCUSSES DEFENSE SITUATION

Hits 'Aggressive' U.S. Policy

PA212324 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, defense minister, has commented on the consequences of imperialist attacks on Central America.

[Begin Ortega recording] This is the greatest [word indistinct] that exists in the world. Never before in history has it been seen that [words indistinct] the Reagan administration arrogates the right, almost makes it a law, to attack a country like Nicaragua. In fact, it is already a law, because the Congress [words indistinct] to carry out Reagan's rightist aggressive policy against Nicaragua.

Reagan does not vary his position of attacking the revolution in the face of our political and diplomatic advances and despite our country's poverty, despite our (?serious) difficulties, and despite the problems of our working people, who do not yet have the [word indistinct] and living conditions that we hope to attain in the future.

Despite this situation, the revolution continues to advance. This leads to the failure of Reagan's policy. It makes him want to try to pump more air into the contras in an attempt to frighten our people by the (?\$21 million) [words indistinct]. We are convinced that, far from intimidating our people and revolution, this policy is further strengthening our people, Militia, and Army in their determination to fight. It is worsening the region's crisis because it is not improbable that Reagan's terrorist activity will cause different revolutionary movements in the area to take the law into their own hands. Communiques have already been issued by the FMLN and the Cinchoneros of Honduras regarding the mining of Nicaraguan ports. We do not doubt that mines will appear suddenly in areas stretching from the Panama Canal Zone to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, thus affecting not only our country, but all of Central America. [end recording]

Comments on Rebel Activities

PA211908 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1427 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist People's Army, has said that in almost 3 months of operations the anti-Sandinists have not been able to introduce a solid block of forces moving in a single direction that could occupy important territories in Nicaragua.

According to Ortega, this shows that the "counterrevolutionary" guerrillas have not been able to carry out the "high-level plans" that they have pursued with the guidance of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) since last year.

In statements to the press at Sandino Airport in Managua, the top military officer described international reports that 15,000 men are currently attacking the country's regime as exaggerated.

However, he pointed out that a number approaches 15,000 if enemy groups based in Honduras, which total between 6,000 and 7,000 armed men; detachments from the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, ARDE, Panamanian and Cuban mercenaries; and the thousands of Honduran soldiers who support the contras are all taken into consideration.

Ortega said that the anti-government guerrillas do not have bases within Nicaragua from which they can service planes and helicopters. He said they have nothing more than "mobile camps."

Ortega said that it is "very difficult" to estimate the number of anti-Sandinists operating in Nicaragua, because some of the attacking groups remain in the Nicaraguan interior for 15 days, others for 10 days, while others can "only withstand 2 days."

He acknowledged that some anti-Sandinist groups remain for as long as 30 days, but said that they are deep in the mountainous areas, where military operations are both difficult and costly.

Ortega said: "However, these groups cannot infiltrate one area as a single unit. When they encounter the Army, they split into groups of 15 or 20 men, and when they approach populated areas, they are repelled and are forced to flee into the mountains or back to Honduras."

Ortega said that recent contra attacks on Nicaragua are part of the "Sierra Plan," under which the contras hope to occupy an important geographical area in the country where they can establish a provisional government.

The chief of the Armed Forces also acknowledged that the anti-Sandinists have shown "great mobility," and have used land mines and a large number of weapons.

Ortega said that the Army has inflicted a "considerable number of casualties" on the counterrevolutionaries in the past 3 months; however, he admitted that the Sandinists have also suffered casualties, although he gave no specific numbers.

EDUCATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ACHIEVEMENTS

DW211333 East Berlin Domestic Service in German 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Interview with Dr Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim, minister of education, by reporter Uta Laudan in Berlin on 20 March; in Spanish with superimposed German translation -- recorded]

[Text] [Laudan] Mr Minister, your government and your country actually have a difficult heritage. I only want to recall the fact that over 50 percent of the people were illiterates or that education had been privileged, so that children of workers or peasants had no possibility of attending school. What are your country's greatest successes now, five years after the revolution?

[Tunnerman] To begin with, there are the results of the literacy campaign. Of the total population, 50.3 percent were illiterate, and the result of the literacy campaign amounted to 12.9 percent. We taught not only Spanish, but also the Miskito and Sumu languages as well as English, that is indigenous English, a specific variant of the English language spoken by the inhabitants of the Caribbean area. Another achievement is that education is completely free of charge and tuition that has to be paid for private schools is under strict control so that it cannot be fixed arbitrarily and so that education cannot become a business deal.

A great help for us was that only a few months after the victory of the revolution some 2,000 Cuban teachers were sent to Nicaragua. These 2,000 Cuban teachers have helped us without compensation, above all, in the most remote rural areas. These were villages and areas in which there had never been a single teacher before.

Meanwhile, we have hired roughly 6,000 new teachers and set up about 2,000 new schools, primarily in the rural areas, the majority of which naturally are small with four to six classrooms. In addition, school meals are served and we are now proceeding to supply the schools with milk. We hope that the major part of the country can be supplied with it. For the first time we have given free workbooks and pencils to the pupils of elementary schools this year. In some areas, that is to say in the poorest areas, we also distributed free textbooks. However, we are not yet in a position to supply all children with textbooks free of charge.

[Laudan] The constant military presence of the United States, the onslaughts of counterrevolutionary gangs, and also the political pressure brought to bear on your country certainly entail difficulties in the field of education. What are these difficulties and how do you manage to overcome them?

[Tunnerman] To begin with, it must be said that the presence of counterrevolutionary gangs in some areas has compelled us to suspend classes temporarily. This has happened in only a few cases, and the suspension of classes is temporary. As soon as counterrevolutionaries have been repulsed by the Militia or the Army, schools start to work again in these areas. No teacher has run away, so to speak, for fear, although roughly 80 of these popular, elementary school teachers have been assassinated and elementary and preparatory schools have been destroyed by the gangs, who have caused considerable material damage to the educational system. However, we are trying to overcome this situation as rapidly as possible and to rebuild the schools.

Thus irrespective of the problems involved, the revolution has set up elementary and preparatory schools in the areas in which there is fighting, and new, big secondary schools with modern buildings have been opened near the Honduran border, for instance in Jalapa and in Somotillo, only some 20 kilometers away from the border. That is to say, as long as the revolution sets up schools and endeavors to educate the people, the counterrevolutionaries will try to deprive the people of these achievements again.

MSGR OBANDO Y BRAVO ON RELATIONS WITH SANDINISTS

PA220329 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] We establish contact with San Pedro Sula, where Waldina Medrano reports the following:

[Begin recording] [Medrano] The Catholic Church has experienced problems with the Sandinist Government because priests are restricted, according to Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, bishop of Managua, Nicaragua.

[Obando y Bravo] There have been problems; we cannot directly broadcast a mass via radio. There is an emergency law, and it is necessary to type out any commentary or homily 24 hours in advance and then take it to the censor office for approval.

[Medrano] Does the Church seek to negotiate with the Sandinist Government to achieve more freedom?

[Obando y Bravo] Yes, because we must not lose hope. We have had some problems, but we hope they will be solved, since the Lord has given us the gift of speech with which to start authentic dialogue.

[Medrano] Nicaragua is not a second Cuba, but its political system is Marxist-Leninist.

[Obando y Bravo] No, I would not say that Nicaragua is a second Cuba, because different circumstances exist which distinguish Nicaragua from Cuba. Nicaragua is not an island; it has borders. The Nicaraguan people have their special characteristics. [end recording]

SOCIAL CHRISTIANS ISSUE DOCUMENT ON ELECTIONS

PA212219 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Social Christian Party [PSC] has issued a document entitled "The Elections, Their Significance and the Attitude Expected From the Democratic Parties." In the document, the PSC expresses its views on the importance of the elections, how they should be held, and what is needed to ensure international support.

In the document, the Social Christians indicate that sectors of the population have begun to discuss what they describe as the opposition stance of the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] as a result of its withdrawal from the Revolutionary Patriotic Front. They also view with concern the division that has emerged at the leadership level in the Democratic Conservative Party.

ANTI-SANDINIST GROUP ISSUES MANIFESTO

PA212001 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] "Sandinism-Communism followers have infiltrated upright, well-known organizations in every Central American country. They prefer that these organizations be neither Communist nor affiliated with any political parties. In this manner, Sandinism-Communism is gradually occupying key positions and is very furtively carrying out an intense disinformation activity against democratic institutions and private enterprise." This charge has been included in an extensive manifesto signed by those in charge of the "Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance" [Resistencia Democratica Nicaraguense] (RIDEN).

The document added that yet another strategy of the Marxist-Leninist regime of Nicaragua is to try to change history. "They degrade heroes, distinguished men, and leaders by staining their memories and repudiating their actions. In this manner, they succeed in confusing and weakening the people's confidence in their own roots, finally making the people think that there is nothing to defend."

The document added: Once the followers of Sandinism-Communism have infiltrated a country, they patiently fabricate their campaigns of slander, deception, hatred of classes, envy, separatism, tension, and confusion, as well as institutional and authority crises, just as has happened in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica.

"Sandinism-Communism, which is none other than the dictatorship of the Communist party in power or the domination and exploitation by the communists of other communists and the people at large, requires an absolute control of all sources of wealth and means of production in order to perpetuate itself in power. [quotation marks as published]

The message, which has been addressed to the people of Nicaragua and the rest of America, has been signed by Commander David Mayorga, chief of RIDEN's armed forces. Mayorga has asserted that in its determination to attain absolute control, the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government constantly deceives and lies, fabricating an agrarian reform that will deliver land and properties to peasants, while the government really keeps its right of ownership over everything. The government also determines what is to be sown, and regulates harvests.

REBELS REPORT SANDINIST CASUALTIES IN NORTH

PA211843 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1750 GMT 21 Mar 84

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) reported here today that the Nicaraguan Army is sustaining significant defeats in the mountains in northern Nicaragua, where the FDN has massed its forces.

An FDN spokesman told ACAN-EFE in Tegucigalpa that the clashes between the rebels and Nicaraguan regulars "are so intense that the authorities in Managua have cancelled the travel permits of the international press."

According to the source, the fighting is taking place in "Chaguiton" and "Buena Vista," [quotation marks as received] in Jinotega and Nueva Segovia Departments, respectively.

The ("Julio Meza") Task Force (group of 1,200 men with their own logistical support), led by an officer called "Honda," is operating in those areas. According to the FDN, these forces have inflicted dozens of casualties on the Sandinist People's Army, particularly during the clashes of 10 and 20 March.

Clashes have also taken place in the area of "Bocas de Quininowas," 65 km from the city of Jinotega, capital of Jinotega Department. The Nicaraguan rebels reported that a Sandinist battalion fled from this area "in disarray" after 1 hour of fighting with all sorts of weapons. The Sandinist battalion involved in the clash was Battalion 8011, which suffered many casualties, including Captain Francisco Duca y Pavon, the sources said.

The FDN also reported clashes in Esteli, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia Departments, especially in the areas of "Laguneta, Mata Palo, La Pava, El Chorro, El Moro, San Jose, and El Chaguite." The rebels claim that they have seized a large quantity of war materiel during these actions. It was also said that the Sandinists are bombarding the area with their artillery and aviation "in an indiscriminate manner and therefore the toll of civilian casualties is high."

The FDN also claimed that it ambushed military trucks in eastern Jinotega, near the "El Guabo" heights, on the roads to "Siuna." Two trucks were destroyed in this ambush, in which the Sandinist troops lost substantial quantities of supplies and food for the troops engaged in the fighting, the sources added. According to the FDN, 17 Sandinist soldiers were killed and the attackers suffered 1 casualty in this ambush.

CLANDESTINE RAPS HANDLING OF RADIO NEWSCASTS

TA210343 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Stalinist Managua regime is going to allow the broadcasting of two dozen radio news programs that have been banned for the past 2 years under the national emergency law. This poorly managed government has only allowed the broadcasting of five news programs, all of which support the regime, including those of Allan Teffel, Agustin Fuentes, Freddie Rostran Arauz, and Joaquin Absalon Pastora. These news programs have maintained their economic independence but not their political independence, because of strong governmental pressure that did not allow any journalists except those of the UPN [Union of Journalists of Nicaragua] to practice their professions, barring newsmen of the APN [Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal Association of Newsmen of Nicaragua], the only independent association.

Many journalists have gone into exile. From this we would guess that the majority of the radio news programs will not resume because they have no directors. If they went on the air, it would be due to the unlimited greed of unscrupulous radio station owners, who in order to earn a few more pesos, would make deals at the expense of the people, charging 3,800 cordobas for each commercial. This is the incredible thing about our national radio journalism.

RAMIREZ VISITS SPAIN, DENOUNCES U.S. ATTACKS

For reportage on Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction member Segrio Ramirez' visit to Spain, including his meeting with Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra to discuss Spanish "technical electoral assistance" to Nicaragua, as well as Ramirez' comments on "the increase in U.S. attacks" and Cuban advisers in Nicaragua, see the Spain section of the 22 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FIDEL CASTRO VISITS CARIBE CANNING PLANT

FL220052 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has visited the Caribe canning plant located in the Havana municipality of Quivicán. Our regional correspondent, Elisa Franchi Anfaro, who transmitted the information, reports that upon his arrival at the plant Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was received by the workers and the administration of the plant. Fidel conversed with them on different subjects including conservation, production, the care of equipment, and the future of the industry. During his visit Fidel took an interest in the new dehydrated onion production unit being installed in this plant, the first such unit in Cuba.

MPSP COMMEMORATES 65TH HUNGARIAN ANNIVERSARY

FL211955 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] A friendly ceremony was held on the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian People's Republic at the offices of the Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP]. Istvan Bogнар, Hungarian ambassador to Cuba, attended the ceremony.

Severo Aquirre del Cristo, president of the MPSP [words indistinct]. This event ended the state of dependency it had as a colony and was a step toward socialism.

In his closing remarks, Bogнар stated that now, more than 6 decades after this historic date, his country has [words indistinct] developing a new society where the people's welfare is of utmost importance.

SOVIET TANKER DAMAGED IN NICARAGUAN PORT

FL211457 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua -- The Nicaraguan Government has said that it was U.S.-backed mercenaries who placed an explosive device at the entrance to the Port of Sandino which damaged a Soviet tanker and wounded 5 sailors. -

A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique stated that the Lugansk, an oil tanker, was damaged as it passed buoy No 1 at the Port of Sandino, about 70 km west of Managua, but was able to dock and is now being unloaded. The communique added that this incident is one more to be added to past incidents taking place in Bluefields and Corinto Ports, on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, respectively. It also said that it is a shame that this time the victims were Soviets.

The Nicaraguan Government has condemned the indiscriminate placing of mines and explosives devices which are a threat to international marine traffic along the Central American shipping lanes.

USSR, Nicaragua Blame U.S.

FL211940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has protested to the U.S. Government the explosion that damaged the tanker Lugansk at Puerto Sandino. The Lugansk was seriously damaged by a mine and five of its sailors were wounded.

A note delivered by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko to the U.S. ambassador in Moscow blames Washington for this act of plunder and piracy. The note accuses the Reagan administration of carrying out a policy of state terrorism. The protest adds that the mining of Nicaraguan ports by counterrevolutionaries is the work of U.S. Special Forces. It also notes Washington's guilt in violating the right of free navigation. The note pointed out that these arbitrary actions by the United States create a dangerous situation and cannot be tolerated.

The Government of Nicaragua also blamed the Yankee administration for the explosion that damaged the tanker Lugansk. Managua accused Washington of promoting a de facto blockade against the country's main ports.

The Lugansk was damaged by the explosion of a mine 3 miles from Puerto Sandino. The explosion occurred as the ship was approaching an oil pipeline terminal to unload 250,000 barrels of crude oil from the Soviet Union. The impact injured five crewmen, one of whom received injuries to the spinal column. The sailors immediately received medical treatment and according to reports, they are now out of danger.

The undeclared war that the United States is waging against Nicaragua is very similar to the one it carried out earlier against Vietnam. To the attacks on port installations and fishing boats are now added the mining of ports.

Before the Lugansk affair, similar acts were carried out against the Netherlands ship Geopotes and the ship Los Caribes of Panamanian registry.

USSR Sends Protest Note

PA212334 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko has delivered a note to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Moscow in which the Soviet Government protests the criminal attack carried out against a Soviet tanker at the entrance to the Port of Sandino in Nicaragua. Five crew members were injured in the attack.

The note states that the USSR holds the United States responsible for the serious crime, because it is well known that Washington is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua, while financing, training, and equipping bands of mercenaries and terrorists that carry out violent acts and that murder the peaceful inhabitants of Nicaragua.

The note adds that the actions directed against foreign vessels on commercial voyages to Nicaragua or near the Nicaraguan coasts -- where mines and other explosives have been placed in its territorial waters or its ports -- are part of that dangerous policy.

The Soviet statement notes that the characteristics and escalation of those criminal operations leave no doubt as to direct U.S. involvement in them. Those operations make the United States directly responsible for the violation of one of the fundamental international laws: the right to free passage.

The note also states that the USSR vigorously protests to the United States the criminal action against the Soviet tanker, and warns that Washington must take responsibility for the consequences of that action. It adds that Soviet authorities will reserve the right to demand compensation for the Soviet citizens who were injured, as well as indemnification for property damage suffered.

Nicaraguan Daily Cited

FL212121 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1912 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan daily newspaper BARRICADA today condemned the aggression suffered yesterday by the Soviet tanker Lugansk when it struck a mine laid by the mercenaries who, working for the CIA, mined the waters of Puerto Sandino. The official FSLN organ added that the Soviet tanker was about to unload 215,000 [as heard] barrels of crude oil when it hit a CIA mine. BARRICADA stated that two crewmen of the Soviet tanker were hospitalized in Chinandega with serious injuries; another three received less serious injuries.

'WAR FEVER' SAID SPREADING IN U.S. GOVERNMENT

PA210432 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The war fever continues to heat the already hot heads of U.S. Government officials. The disease is spreading to U.S. officials in every part of the government. Very few at the White House are aware of the danger of the adventurous and war-mongering U.S. policy.

President Ronald Reagan, involved in the hustle and bustle of politics, is apparently trying to cover up the failure of his policy in Lebanon with an escalation of the war in Central America. In fact, the White House has gone all out to promote war in this region, and in this respect it has escalated its aggressive plans against Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In El Salvador the threat of aggression becomes greater each day. The U.S. Government's plans for El Salvador include using the mercenary Honduran Army, which the U.S. Government has been manipulating for a long time.

The FMLN General Command last week issued a communique warning of the dangerous consequences that the U.S. policy for El Salvador could bring to the whole region. The communique read over Radio Venceremos reported plans for a big counterinsurgency operation with the participation of the military forces of Honduras, El Salvador, and the United States. The communique said that the operation was being carried out mainly by the Salvadoran Army in the northeastern part of Morazan Department. At the same time, the Honduran Army was reinforcing its border region with El Salvador with more troops.

The FMLN report was confirmed in a recent issue of the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, which said that the CIA and the U.S. Southern Command, which has its headquarters in the Panama Canal area, had submitted a plan to President Ronald Reagan that includes using the U.S. Air Force in massive air raids against the guerrilla bases in El Salvador. NEWSWEEK also quoted U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger as admitting that U.S. spy planes are conducting reconnaissance flights over Salvadoran territory.

Therefore, the danger of a U.S. aggression in El Salvador is more real than ever, the FMLN has indicated. In this respect, the FMLN has urged all rebel units to repel any invading force and has also asked the people of the United States to try to prevent the tragic consequences of the military escalation promoted by the U.S. Government.

Finally, the FMLN said that in the face of the threatening presence of U.S. troops in the border zone with Honduras, the rebel forces will respond by increasing the war until victory is achieved.

In view of the danger of an aggression against the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua, the revolutionary and democratic forces of the world, particularly of our America, raise their voices in protest; and just as yesterday they stood next to Cuba, today they stand next to the peoples of the region and against the voracious claws of imperialism, which they will try to destroy.

SHULTZ ASKS CONGRESS FOR MORE AID FOR C.A.

FL211458 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has again exerted pressure on Congress to approve military aid to El Salvador and to the groups that are attacking Nicaragua. Shultz said that the Reagan administration wants no more Cubas in Central America. He said he considered it necessary to continue helping the Salvadoran military regime and to keep the pressure on Nicaragua. Shultz urged the Congress to recognize the anti-Sandinist groups which, supported by the CIA, are attacking the Nicaraguan revolution.

The U.S. secretary of state said it was urgent that Congress approve a \$93 million credit for the Salvadoran regime and a \$21 million credit for the anti-Nicaraguan groups. The Yankee official said that such measures conformed with U.S. national interest.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA TALKS WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT

Arrives in Mexico

FL202315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega today arrived in Mexico City to analyze the Central American situation with President Miguel de la Madrid.

Mexico, together with Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, comprises the Contadora Group which has been looking since 1983 for a peaceful solution for the red-hot Central American situation.

Describes Mission

PA210418 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said upon his arrival in Mexico that the U.S. military presence in Central America worsens tensions and increases the risk of war in the region. Speaking to newsmen, Ortega said that Nicaragua has made a great effort to prevent conflicts in Central America, but the United States, he added, creates and encourages them.

Sandinist Commander Daniel Ortega will meet with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and with President Miguel de la Madrid.

Just before leaving for Mexico, Daniel Ortega said in Managua that his mission, like that of other delegations that will travel to Latin American countries, is to alert the presidents of those countries to the critical situation in Central America. Ortega said that the Sandinist Government will keep struggling to defend the revolution in the military, economic, and institutional areas.

Meets With De la Madrid

FL212030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1922 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta Commander Daniel Ortega today studied the possibility of direct military intervention in Central America by the United States.

The two chiefs of state met in the official residence of Los Pinos. The Mexican morning newspapers reported fully on Commander Ortega's visit and his first statement, in which he described the situation in Central America as very grave.

Ortega stated that his conversations with De la Madrid were especially important because Mexico is one of the principal proponents of peace in the region. The Sandinist leader also referred to the presence of U.S. Navy ships in Central American waters as a clear threat of intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

NICARAGUAN EPS CLASHES WITH GUERRILLAS

PA211300 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] and the Nicaraguan militias have killed 27 counterrevolutionaries in clashes held in the northern region of Nueva Segovia Department in the past few days.

Reports published in the newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO say the clashes took place at San Ramon Hill and near Pueblo Nuevo and Ciudad Antigua, and that the anti-Sandinists fled in the direction of Honduran territory, from where they had come. This same group of counterrevolutionaries on 16 March murdered a teacher and three peasants and kidnapped nine other peasants in Esteli Department.

Another report says that Assistant Commander Roger Mayorga, State Security chief in Nicaragua's 1st Military Region, reported that five peasants were killed in an ambush staged by counterrevolutionaries in that zone. It was also learned that 11 other persons were murdered in Jinotega Department.

SALVADORAN ARMY LAUNCHES PREELECTION ATTACKS

PA21225' Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces have launched repressive actions, raids, and massive searches in San Salvador and strict surveillance of all the country's highways and cities on the eve of the presidential elections scheduled for Sunday and in view of alleged guerrilla attack plans.

The FMLN has warned that the elections themselves will not be a military target but that rebel actions will continue before, during, and after the electoral farce. The elections, said Radio Venceremos, will not only be a farce, but constitute a cover-up for a plan of direct intervention by U.S. troops in El Salvador.

According to last-minute reports, clashes between the Salvadoran Army and the patriotic forces have increased, mainly in the eastern Departments of San Miguel and Usulután, with a heavy toll of casualties among the government's ranks.

In San Salvador, urban commandos dynamited two high-tension towers and left a sizable area of that capital without electricity. Meanwhile, other FMLN squads destroyed a telephone booth.

Other reports confirm the discovery of eight maimed bodies in the vicinity of Armenia, a locality in the southern Sonsonate Department.

FMLN-FDR DENOUNCES SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

FL211742 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1503 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Salvadoran revolutionary organizations have reported that the elections announced by the regime, which are to take place this Sunday in El Salvador, are not legitimate, lack even minimal democratic conditions, and do not signify an alternative to the current crisis. The FMLN and the FDR said in a communique that the electoral farce is another tool of the U.S. strategy to promote war against the Salvadoran people.

The document said that El Salvador is in a state of war due to the denial of the most basic rights to the people and to a vicious cycle of social injustice. The Salvadoran revolutionary organizations specified that for elections to be legitimate, there must be political and social conditions which do not currently exist in the country.

FMLN ACTION BLACKS OUT PART OF SAN SALVADOR

PA210435 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Two electric poles were destroyed today by two bomb explosions in San Salvador, and there were armed clashes between the guerrillas and the Army on some parts of the main northern highway and the Pan-American Highway. The dynamite explosions left a large sector of San Salvador without electricity.

Other reports say that the repressive forces of the Salvadoran regime have threatened to arrest the public employees' labor leaders if the 15,000 public workers on strike since last Thursday to demand a wage increase do not return to work.

ELECTIONS IN GUATEMALA DEEMED UNLIKELY

FL211527 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] There is little chance that elections for representatives will take place in Guatemala because only 5 of the 37 officially recognized political parties are interested in participating in these elections.

The Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Tribunal, [Tribunal Supremo Electoral] has so far accepted the ultraright groups National Liberation Movement [Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional] and the Unified Anticommunist Party [Partido de Unificacion Anti-Comunista], as well as the right-wing groups Nationalist United Front [FUN] [Frente de Unidad Nacional] and the Nationalist Authentic Center [Central Autentica Nacionalista] and the center party National Center Union [Union del Centro Nacional].

According to the electoral law -- enacted 19 January 1983 -- candidates for the Constituent Assembly will be able to register until 30 April 1984, two months before the upcoming elections on 1 July 1984.

The clandestine Democratic Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Democratico], a member of Socialist International, has stated that increased political violence indicates that there are no guarantees for mass participation in the elections.

EXPLOSION IN CHILE DESTROYS CULTURAL CENTER

PA211504 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dispatches from Santiago, Chile, report the destruction of the installations of a cultural center at Punta Arenas by a powerful dynamite explosion. The press reports attributed the terrorist act to the extreme rightist paramilitary group known as Defense Commandos of the Fatherland [Comandos Defensores de la Patria].

The damaged center, which served as a meeting place for writers, musicians, and intellectuals, last week sponsored a mass tribute to deceased folklore artist Violeta Parra.

BARBADOS ANNOUNCES INCREASED DEFENSE BUDGET

PA212247 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Barbados will spend \$8 million this fiscal year to reinforce its Army. This figure represents a 25-percent increase over the amount spent last year.

In presenting the fiscal year budget to Parliament this week, Barbadian Prime Minister John Adams said that his country's defense force needs more soldiers. He added that the increase in the defense budget will include the expenses incurred by the Barbadian troops who have been assisting U.S. invasion troops in Grenada since last October.

EX-PRESIDENT BALAGUER RETURNS FROM U.S. VISIT

FL211803 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 13 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] Former Dominican Republic President Dr Joaquin Balaguer yesterday returned from New York after a 6-week stay in the United States.

Balaguer, the Reformist Party's [PR] principal leader, was accompanied by his sisters Enma and Rosa Balaguer, Deputy Juan Rafael Estrella Rojas, and private secretary Rafael Bello Andino.

Balaguer will again take part in PR politics.

He was welcomed by a large group of PR supporters headed by Joaquin Ricardo.

Supporters from the Progressive National Force [ENP]-- Fuerza Nacional Progresista] lead by Dr Marino Vinicio Castillo were also there.

BRIEFS

NEW GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR -- Maria Mercedes Marroquin Milla, a lawyer, presented her credentials to President Salvador Jorge Blanco as the new Guatemalan ambassador to the Dominican Republic on 5 March. [Summary] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 11 FL]

RELIGIOUS RADIO SERVICE -- The radio station Alpha Omega has celebrated its 11th anniversary of transmitting the message of the word of God. The radio station transmits daily on 93.5 mhz stereo from 0900 to 1030 [1300-1430 GMT] and plans to transmit nationwide on 4750 khz. [Excerpts] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 2B FL]

GRENADASCOON ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN TO REGISTER VOTERS

FL212028 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 21 (CANA) -- Grenada will mount its voter enumeration for forthcoming general elections between April 2 and May 12 in all 15 constituencies, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon announced here last night.

In a radio broadcast, Sir Paul said he had given approval on Monday to the "special provisions" for registration of electors and for the preparation and publication of the voter register.

"It is the right of every Grenadian to elect a government of his choice. Equally it is his duty, indeed his sacred duty to vote on elections day," the governor general said.

He said that the old system of enumeration, under criticism with some justification since it permitted impersonation, padding and omission, is being replaced by an "improved system now existing in other Commonwealth Caribbean countries."

Under the new arrangement, enumerators accompanied by photographers will visit each household in the country to interview persons eligible to be registered for the elections expected to take place before year-end, he said.

Persons who are entitled to vote in the elections will be issued a certificate of enumeration and each registered voter at a later stage will be presented with "laminated identification cards" to vote on polling day.

He told Grenadians the new enumeration process was geared towards ensuring free and fair elections. The new system lessens the chances of false registration, duplication of names and makes it easier to identify eligible voters on election day, Sir Paul said. Only persons who are citizens of Grenada or nationals from Commonwealth countries who have been residing here for at least one year immediately before the registration date will be allowed to have their names on the voters list. For such persons to be eligible to vote they must attain the age of eighteen on or before August 31, 1984, the governor general said.

He also stated that during the days leading up to the start of the enumeration process, the supervisor of elections, Roy Chasteau, will be charged with the responsibility of making arrangements "to ensure that the people of this country are fully aware of the manner in which the enumeration is to be done."

Sir Paul called on Grenadians to co-operate with those involved in the enumeration process leading up to the elections which will return Grenada to parliamentary government after close to five years of left-wing revolutionary rule.

"...If you are not registered you would not be able to vote on election day, and through your own fault, you would be doing a great disservice to your country and an injustice to yourself," Sir Paul said.

Grenadians last went to the polls in December 1976.

JAMAICAISA SESSION OPENS: SOVIET DELEGATE COMPLAINS

FL211648 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 21 (CANA) -- The second session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Law of the Sea Tribunal has opened its formal work here to a complaint from the Soviet Union.

Soviet delegate Ignor Kolossovsky, who spoke last night, said the United States was attempting to "undermine the work of the Preparatory Commission and the convention itself" and was putting "intensive pressure on its allies to sign a separate agreement."

Washington's aim was "to organize a plot to plunder the resources of the international seabed" on behalf of itself and transnational companies, despite the UN's declaration of these resources as the common heritage of mankind.

The United States, under President Reagan, has decided to stay out of the Sea Law Convention claiming, among other things, that its provisions for exploiting the poly-metallic nodules in the deep seabed were discriminatory to private enterprise.

The Preparatory Commission has been charged with establishing the organs to voice the Law of the Sea Convention and last night adopted a broad organisational outline for its work during the current session.

The Reagan administration has encouraged a number of Western countries to follow its lead and stay out of the convention, and has been promoting among its allies a so-called "mini-treaty."

Among the priorities of this session of the Prepcom is the elaboration of rules, regulations, and procedures for the registration of pioneer investors in deep seabed mining, and Kolossovsky warned that delegates should not lose sight of this.

He said that completion of this work should include "an important political statement," declaring the intention of the world community on the Law of the Sea Convention.

It would stress, he said, that any attempt to go outside the convention to "elaborate and develop the resources of the seabed would lead to deep political and economic and legal consequences" and underlined that attempts to block the work of the commission would be futile.

Under the convention four countries -- the Soviet Union, France, Japan, India -- or their enterprises were designated pioneer investors in deep seabed mining, as well as four consortia whose components come from one or more of a list of eight states -- Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany, Italy, the United States, Britain, and Japan.

Pioneer investors have a virtual guarantee that the states involved and their enterprises will receive seabed mining contracts from the ISA, and will be allowed after registration to explore, though not exploit commercially, selected areas of the deep seabed, until the convention comes into force after it has been ratified by 60 countries.

However, political and legal problems could possibly loom over deep seabed mining, for from the list of eight countries whose consortia have been accorded pioneer investor protection status, only Canada, Japan and the Netherlands have signed the treaty.

The Soviet Union and India have already applied to the Prepcom for registration, and are now only awaiting its adoption of the relevant rules, regulations and procedures to formalise the arrangement.

It is the plenary of the Prepcom that has been mandated to elaborate these procedures, while four specialised committees have been charged with developing other areas.

One important and related committee, chaired by Trinidad and Tobago's Lennox, Ballah, is to deal with the creation of the enterprise, which is to be the commercial mining arm of the authority.

Other committees will develop a mining code, the problems of land-based producer states once seabed mining of polymetallic nodules start, and the establishment of the tribunal of the law of the sea to arbitrate grievances.

LOCAL CURRENCY LOSES VALUE AGAINST DOLLAR

FL211756 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 21 (CANA) -- The Jamaican dollar lost 7.4 per cent of its value against the U.S. currency when foreign exchange trading began here today following yesterday's first bidding under a new parity fixing and foreign exchange system introduced by the Central Bank.

After yesterday's auction, the buying rate for the U.S. dollar moved to 3.51 Jamaican dollars, against the 3.25 dollars where bankers had held it for several weeks. There is a four cents additional charge when selling.

The new system calls for commercial banks, public and private sector importers and others with foreign exchange obligations of 50,000 U.S. dollars and over to participate in a Central Bank auction for a pool of currency on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The bid clearing the auction forms the exchange rate for the intervening days.

Bidding had to take place within the government's established band of between 3.25 and 3.55 dollars for the U.S. dollar. But the maximum bid had to be four cents short of the outside limit of the band.

Only 2.1 million U.S. dollars were available for auction yesterday, and Central Bank officials said that bids totalling 26.28 million dollars were received.

AMENDMENT SEEKS TO REPATRIATE EXPORT EARNINGS

FL220115 Bridgetown CANA in English 1948 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 21 (CANA) -- The Jamaica Government, seeking to plug loopholes for foreign exchange leakages, has passed legislation placing the onus on chief officers of Jamaican companies to ensure that export earnings are repatriated or face stiff penalties.

The amendment to the Exchange Control Act, approved by Parliament last night, also gave the finance minister the authority to ensure that foreign exchange was used and accounted for in accordance to conditions imposed by him.

Moving the passage of the bill, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who holds the finance portfolio, disclosed that 44.4 million (U.S.) dollars in export earnings which should have been lodged with the Central Bank four months ago, was still being held overseas.

A number of companies have fallen so afoul of the present law that the Central Bank has had to refer some cases for legal action, Seaga said.

A major aim of the amendment is to place at the doorsteps of an individual, rather than a body corporate, the responsibility of ensuring that the foreign exchange earned by a company for its exports actually reaches Jamaica.

"Where an offence is committed by a body corporate, persons who are directors, general managers, secretaries, and similar officers of the body corporate, or who are purported to act in such a capacity, will be deemed guilty of the offence unless able to prove that the contravention was committed without their consent or connivance and had used diligence to prevent the commission of the offence," Seaga said.

Jamaica is experiencing a severe foreign exchange crisis, and the government has introduced a plethora of policy measures to deal with the difficulties.

Under the legislation, company officials found guilty of failing to comply with provisions relating to the repatriation of export earnings can be subjected to a fine not exceeding 50,000 dollars (one J dollar; 30 cents U.S.), imprisonment up to two years, or both on summary conviction by a magistrate.

On conviction in a circuit court, the person is liable to a fine not exceeding the value of three times the value of foreign currency involved, or a fine not exceeding 100,000 dollars or imprisonment not exceeding 10 years, or both.

Seaga said he hoped that in instances where "dramatic force" had to be used, it would serve to indicate that the government's intention was to ensure that foreign exchange earnings were repatriated.

"We do not intend to carry out our own strategies at great sacrifice, borrow funds, purchase raw materials while some exporters retain foreign exchange earnings overseas, which should be brought back to the country to pay back debts incurred for the funds borrowed for the purchasing of their raw materials and capital goods input," the prime minister said.

TRINIDADIAN NEWSPAPER ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS

FL212001 Bridgetown CANA in English 1858 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 21 (CANA) -- The TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, one of two morning dailies here, today accused Guyana's President Forbes Burnham of "emasculating" the country's trade union movement.

The paper was commenting editorially on efforts by three Guyanese trade unions to assert their collective bargaining rights in the high courts.

The Clerical and Commercial Workers Union, the Guyana Mine Workers Union, and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union are asking the court to rule that collective bargaining is the right of individual trade unions and not that of the umbrella Trade Union Congress (TUC).

The GUARDIAN's comment follows the passage by the Guyana Parliament of legislation that, among other things, permits the TUC to enter into collective bargaining agreements on behalf of public sector workers who may already be represented by a union.

"...Burnham peremptorily has withdrawn the right to collective bargaining from individual trade unions and vested it in the Trade Union Congress, which is more or less under his government's control," the paper said.

In the context of "self-reinstatement" power by "rigged" elections, nationalisation of the "one prosperous" bauxite industry, and the "sweeping away of press freedom," the GUARDIAN said, Burnham "is now emasculating the trade union movement."

This was "all in the process of remoulding the country closer to his socialist vision," the GUARDIAN added.

The paper said there may be some who would argue that Burnham has done what was necessary "because in Guyana's parlous economic condition, trade union freedom, agitation, and unrest is a luxury the country simply cannot afford."

It felt that while this maybe true, in the context of Burnham's policy and style of operation and "in the inexorable disintegration of human rights under his regime," they simply add to his image as "a dictator in democratic dress."

The paper felt that the "sad thing" about Burnham was the fact that "he and his policies represent an anachronism to almost everyone but himself."

BOLIVIAMUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER

PY212142 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpt] During a meeting of parliamentary blocs held yesterday, it was decided that the municipal elections, which were slated for 6 May, will be held on the first Sunday of December. The meeting was presided over by Jaime Paz Zamora, vice president of the Republic and president of the National Congress.

CARVAJAL EXPLAINS COMIBOL DEFICIT; MEETS SOVIETS

PY212120 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpts] Mines and Metallurgy Minister Carlos Carvajal has told PRESENCIA that the 1984 budget of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) has a deficit of \$150 million. Carvajal explained that the figure includes unpaid debts of previous years which must be paid this year and payments which must also be made this year on foreign debts contracted to restructure COMIBOL.

Carvajal met yesterday with a Soviet mission which is visiting Bolivia to discuss the Machacamarca and La Falca projects and to find out about the Bolivar multimetallurgical project. He said that they are discussing with the mission the terms of the Soviet offer to cooperate in the implementation of an overall project to include a number of mines which will provide minerals to the Machacamarca, La Palca, and Bolivar plants.

Carvajal announced that a second mission of geologists will arrive during the second half of March to carry out mine prospecting works in the area covered by the previously mentioned projects. He added that a third mission will arrive later to discuss technical training problems and other missions will implement the projects.

Carvajal also met with representatives of the Inge Huppert Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau Bank to analyze the bank's economic aid to the National Smelting Enterprise (ENAF).

BRAZILMALUF REJECTS CHANGES IN ELECTION RULES

PY211744 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Presidential hopeful Paulo Maluf today warned President Figueiredo that he will not tolerate any changes in the electoral rules. Maluf does not accept a shortening of the administration's term and wants direct elections to be held as of 1990.

The following is a report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodriguez.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. During a 1-hour meeting today at Planalto Palace, presidential hopeful Paulo Maluf told President Figueiredo that he and the group of legislators who support his candidacy do not accept the holding of direct presidential elections for 1988 or the shortening of the next presidential term. Maluf noted that he will only accept the holding of direct presidential elections in 1990. [end relay]

SURINAMECRUDE OIL PRODUCTION TO DOUBLE IN 1984

FL192230 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, March 18 (CANA-REUTER) -- Suriname's State Oil Company (Staatsolie) expects to almost double crude oil production this year, to 220,000 barrels from 115,000 barrels in 1983, the government said.

Staatsolie intends to put eight more wells into production to add to 11 already in operation.

The United States-owned Suriname Aluminium Company bought the bulk of Staatsolie production last year -- 110,000 barrels -- with the remaining 4,000 barrels going to the local industry.

VENEZUELAPOLICE DISCOVER MICROPHONES IN MINISTERS' OFFICES

PA202002 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0104 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Caracas, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Caracas police today confirmed the discovery of hidden microphones in the offices of the interior and justice ministers, as well as in that of the deputy interior minister.

The news that government security had discovered high-sensitivity microphones in several ministers' offices had circulated last Sunday, but was not confirmed until today.

It has been reported that the microphones are of the wireless, long-range type which record very clearly and which had transmitted information to two buildings close to the ministries. These buildings were searched by the political police organization DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services]. During this investigation, the police found modern recording equipment and many tapes containing conversations held by the ministers. The police are trying to determine whether the tiny instruments were installed before or after President Jaime Lusinchi's inauguration on 2 February.

In addition, the police are trying to determine who entered the offices to install the devices, and, above all, who is behind this eavesdropping operation which the Caracas press has described as the "Venezuelan Watergate."

CORRECTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON C.A. ELECTIONS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Foreign Minister Comments on C.A. Elections" published in the 20 March Latin America DAILY REPORT on page 11, fifth paragraph, fourth line:

...within a framework of respect for the rights of all the political organizations and full liberty for the citizens to exercise their civil and political rights.

Nicaragua has announced elections and expressed its desire that they be carried out within a framework of liberty. The...(providing dropped passage)